

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD ON 8 JULY 2013 AT 7.30 P.M. AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, WEELEY**

Present: Councillors Miles (Chairman), Amos, V E Guglielmi, Hawkins, Howard and D R Mayzes.

In Attendance: Business Manager (Jon Barber), Business Support Manager (Katie Wilkins), Democratic Services Manager (Colin Sweeney) and Democratic Services Officers (Janey Nice and Michael Pingram).

9. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all Members and Officers to the meeting and introduced the new Democratic Service Officer, Michael Pingram to Members.

10. COUNCILLOR GILL DOWNING

The Chairman was sad to announce that Councillor Gill Downing had passed away at the weekend. The Chairman paid tribute to Councillor Downing and extended her most sincere condolences to her family.

11. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Broderick (with Councillor Howard substituting), Councillor C Callender (with Councillor V E Guglielmi substituting), Councillor Patten (with Councillor D R Mayzes substituting) and Councillor Tracey.

12. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting of the Committee, held on 22 May 2013, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Hawkins thanked Councillor Miles for her response to his question raised at the Council meeting held on 2 July 2013 and he acknowledged her response went to the heart of the issue. He further added that the Cabinet be invited to look at the problem of fly-tipping and the responsible Portfolio Holder look at it as a matter of priority. The Chairman confirmed she had spoken to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Coast Protection (Councillor Turner) on fly-tipping and littering. She said that her preferred approach in terms of dealing with fly-tipping and littering was for the Committee to take ownership of the problem and, with the assistance of Councillor Turner, raise the matter as an item on a future agenda to this Committee.

The Chairman also confirmed that she would be inviting the Police and Crime Commissioner back to a future meeting of the Committee.

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

14. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT – THE ROLE OF SCRUTINY

The Chairman said she believed that scrutiny was crucial to the work of local authorities and was where Members had a significant opportunity to really make a difference in working more closely with the Cabinet in influencing the developing of policies. She went on to say that she wished to see the Committee work in a more proactive manner with Members becoming more engaged in the scrutiny process and by having an input into the agenda-setting by putting forward suggestions as to what they would wish to see scrutinised.

The Chairman reminded the Committee that the Leader of the Council would be inviting all Members to a meeting of the Council (in Committee), to be held on Wednesday 24 July 2013, to discuss how scrutiny was working in Tendring and ways to improve it.

The Chairman reminded the Committee of the special piece of work they had done on health and inequalities where Members had worked with Officers in a workshop to decide on the specific part the Committee would work on. She added that this had proved very successful and had made a difference when discussed at a special meeting with key partners. She further added that she would like to see the Committee work on three or four key topics, in detail and in a similar way.

Councillor D R Mayzes informed the Committee that the Service Development and Delivery Committee, to which he was Vice-Chairman, was planning to work in a similar way and would work more on development rather than delivery. He added that the Committee was to explore the potential for holding of site visits (already carried out by Members of the Planning Committee) for certain items where it was felt there would be real merit in seeing at first hand, the issues or problems associated with the matter to be scrutinised and in order to ensure that Members charged with scrutinising had as much information as possible prior to undertaking the work.

Councillor Mayzes went on to say that meetings convened to consider matters which had been called-in could perhaps be avoided if those Members calling-in decisions met firstly with relevant Officers and Members to answer queries or problems they had with the original decision.

The Democratic Services Manager (Colin Sweeney) confirmed to Members that overview and scrutiny was specifically for Members to be able to scrutinise, work closely with Cabinet to influence policy and to hold Cabinet to account. He said that Scrutiny Committees had more powers than before in respect of whom they could invite to offer evidence and that the Committee should embrace this and consider widening the net when identifying potential witnesses to assist it in its work. In terms of keeping the business of the Committee fresh and motivation high, he said that members should actively embrace new ways of carrying out scrutiny work, such as the establishment of time-limited and focussed sub-groups or task and finish groups to look at certain pieces of work and report their findings to the Committee to take these forward and report on these at Cabinet on a more frequent basis.

The Chairman thanked the Committee and Democratic Services Manager for their comments.

15. ESSEX FAMILY TENDRING PROTOTYPE – REVIEW OF PROGRESS

The Chairman welcomed the Business Manager (Jon Barber) back to the Committee to give an update on the EssexFamily Tendring Prototype.

Mr Barber said he was pleased to be able to report a good news story to the Committee and delivered a presentation on the review of progress, which specifically addressed:

- Achievements to date
- The approach taken
- Intervention/Support Timeline 2012/13 (Family A)
- Family Outcomes
- Challenges
- The next step – the evolution of EssexFamily Tending

Mr Barber reiterated that the EssexFamily Prototype was one of only four Community Budget pilots in the country. He said EssexFamily was a joint partnership with Tendring District Council, Essex County Council and the former Primary Care Trust, the latter two having provided funding for the pilot of over £300,000. He added that the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive had recently made a presentation about this work to a Parliamentary Select Committee and Tendring District Council had delivered something that had been nationally recognised.

An outline was given by Mr Barber of the achievements to date which included better outcomes for families with complex needs, whilst promoting independence, health and well-being. He said that this work had also realised cost savings across statutory sector partners and that work was continuing to develop mechanism to enhance sustainability for families exiting support. He stated that the approach had been about redesigning services around the family, ensuring they were family centric, rather than the individual person, and for example, although a substantial number of grandparents were the main family carers however no official support network was currently in place for them.

The Business Manager stated that the family approach had been a real achievement and that several families had been in real chaos at the start of the scheme. He added that during the course of the prototype some partners had raised concern over data sharing and had not been willing to share information although much work had been done to overcome this. He gave details of how reactive expenditure had decreased while proactive expenditure had increased, although this would reduce over time and final figures for family expenditure evidenced an overall reduction in cost to the public purse.

Mr Barber said that challenges included disengagement by some partners to the pooling of budgets and forcing system change away from established processes by breaking silo working and integration of IT to share information.

Mr Barber informed Members that outcomes were currently being evaluated by Anglia Ruskin University and early indications had shown that families were reporting increased resilience which included:

- Improved Mental Health and Well-being
- Increased independence
- Stable and secure accommodation
- Reduction in offending
- Reduction in abusive or harmful behaviours
- Access to employment, education or training
- Access to relevant support services

In conclusion, Mr Barber said that the Council was committed to this work and was working closely with Family Solutions in Tendring and the proposal was that the EssexFamily service would be integrated with the Family Solutions Service. Mr Barber stated the preferred approach would be the appointment of a Council employed Family Support Worker within Family Solutions so that the Council could control the workload and focus on the sustainability of families exiting the service.

During questions and in-depth discussion with Members, the Committee was informed that other Councils had been contacting Tendring to learn from its good practice.

The risk of data sharing Mr Barber said, was being taken very seriously with the rolling out of information sharing being very low key at first and gradually increasing. Members indicated that they were behind the EssexFamily scheme and confirmed that the scheme did great credit to the Council. It was confirmed by Mr Barber that Essex County Council was fully supportive of integrating EssexFamily within Family Solutions.

The Chairman thanked the Business Manager and Business Support Manager for all of the work they had done so far on the EssexFamily Prototype and for the excellent presentation to the Committee.

COMMITTEE'S COMMENT TO CABINET that the Committee was very impressed with the work done so far by the Officers who should be congratulated and, it was:

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET that the Cabinet work closer with partners and fully support an approach which leads to community budgets (shared budgets) as a means to improve services to communities and realise savings for the public purse.

16. FORWARD PLAN

The Committee noted the new item contained in Forward Plan No. 141.

17. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

There were none.

18. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee noted the items due to be considered at the next three scheduled meetings of the Committee. It was commented that, at the Committee's next meeting, scheduled to be held on 22 September 2013, the review of the Community Rent Off-setting Scheme (CAROS) would need to start making recommendations since a lot of information had now been gathered. At the scheduled 4 November 2013 meeting, the provision of a new GP Surgery at Holland-on-Sea was due to be discussed and it was suggested that the maternity service provision issue in Harwich and Clacton be included.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.05pm

Chairman