

## **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**MONDAY, 11 AUGUST 2014**

**PRESENT:-** Councillors John Ballman, Mark Dempsey, Toby Elliott, Cindy Matthews, Maureen Penny, James Robbins, Vera Tomlinson, Steve Weisinger, Robert Wright (Chair) and Oliver Donachie

Councillor Brian Mattock was also in attendance.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mary Martin (Vice-Chair), Kevin Parry and Stan Pajak

### **14. Declarations of Interest**

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting. There were no declarations made.

### **15. Minutes**

**Resolved** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Members expressed concerns about not receiving responses to a number of questions asked at the last meeting. The Director of Law and Democratic Services explained that August was the traditional time for officers to take annual leave and that the time between the last Scrutiny Committee and this meeting was very close. However, he would arrange for the responses to be followed up.

### **16. Public Question Time**

There were no public questions.

### **17. Cabinet Member Question and Answer Session - Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care**

Councillor Brian Mattock, the Deputy Leader of the Council and Vice Chair of Cabinet and Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, was in attendance and presented a detailed report summarising progress and performance in respect of each of the following service areas within his portfolio of responsibility:

- Adult Services / Older People's (Social) Services
- Health and Wellbeing Board
- Close working with the Care Quality Commission
- Community Mental Health Services
- Enterprise Works
- Public Health
- Supporting People
- Learning Disability Partnership Board

- Maintaining links between the Council and partner organisations in the Health Services
- Services for People with Disabilities
- Adult Social Care Services Department Management Overview
- SEQOL Client Lead Member
- Control Room Operations
- Emergency Planning
- Wichelstowe
- Supporting the Cabinet Member for Communities and Volunteering to develop community capacity

At the request of the Chair, Councillor Mattock, in his presentation of the report, commented specifically on those elements within his portfolio which he felt had been most successful, those where a different approach might have produced better results and the lessons that might have been learned as a consequence, and the challenges he expected to be faced by the Council relation to these service areas in the coming year and beyond, particularly in relation to on-going budgetary constraints.

Following his presentation of the report, Councillor Mattock responded to members' specific questions and observations on the following topics:

- How Localities helped to deliver the Adult Social Care change programme
- The need for Localities to be more than an informational resource and to be aware of the challenges that the Council faced in the sphere of Adult Social Care
- The on-going issue of the provision of the Memory Service within Swindon
- The resources available to manage increased referrals for the Authorisation of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguarding following the ruling by the Supreme Court.
- Information about the person taking on the role of the Best Interest Assessor
- The increasing financial burden on Councils of residents taking up places at residential care homes and the issue of putting a cap on the contribution made by the Council
- Concern at the results of the 2013/14 Adult Social Care Outcome Framework annual statutory Client Survey in relation to the proportion of people who use services who find it easy to find information about services
- The safeguards in place to avoid abuses of the process in relation to responsibilities under the Mental Health Act, in particular where a person lacks the Mental Capacity to make their own decisions about where they live and the support that they need, the home or hospital has the ability to grant themselves up to 7 days Authority to Deprive that person of their Liberty in order that they can receive the care that they require
- The challenges presented to the Council in managing the demand for services with the projected increases in the number of people requiring the services of adult social care by 2031
- The need to know the future increase in numbers of people demanding services in addition to percentage figures
- The latest position regarding the fire at Averies Recycling, the role and action taken by the Environment Agency including a Regulation 57 notice, public engagement, concerns at the potential health and environmental issues and

the need to keep local Councillors and the public informed of the latest developments

- Information about the early tendering of the Befriending and Reducing Isolation contract
- Concern at the increase in the number of older people over the age of 85 entering residential care during 2013/14, especially as the national picture was to encourage older people to remain in their own homes for as long as possible
- The effectiveness of current strategies in relation to older people entering residential care homes
- The total amount of financial support offered by the Council to people living in their own home before a place in a residential home is recommended
- The features of the Better Care Fund, in particular a significant proportion of the allocation being based on payment by result and whether Swindon was likely to achieve the results needed to receive the full allocation
- The reduction in the number of people continuing to smoke, the rise in use of e-cigarettes, the amount of information available to councils about e-cigarettes and advice being given to the public about their use
- The use of vaporising e-cigarettes in restaurants, public perception and possible use of bye-laws to bring the use of them in line with current legislation on tobacco cigarettes
- The challenge for disabled people in using the shared space at Regents Circus
- The need for all Councillors to receive education on health issues and the need to increase member participation at training events

**Resolved –**

(1) That Councillor Mattock, and his support team of officers, be thanked for attending the meeting to present this performance report and for their full and open responses to members' questions and observations on the issues raised.

(2) That information requested by members during the course of the Committee's consideration of this item be forwarded to members via the Committee Clerk.