

# **REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TO THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY, 20 JANUARY 2016**

## **Budget**

The committee is continuing its challenge on the progress being made on the delivery of savings in 2015/16 that were agreed by full Council in February 2015. A number of these savings were part of an on-going savings strategy over a three year period. The inability to achieve the savings in this current year only adds to the problems for 2016/17 and 2017/18. The committee is therefore trying to identify the lessons that can be learnt from last year's budget process so that a more robust and realistic framework can be introduced.

As part of this the Committee was advised by the relevant executive member and officers on the work being undertaken in transformation and organisational change. Whilst there have been many projects successfully delivered throughout the year several others where large savings were anticipated have not come to fruition.

One key element of the Medium Term Financial Strategy is the Strategic Asset Management Plan. Due to limited staff resources the review of the Plan has been delayed. The principles upon which the revised Plan will be based are to be circulated to the Committee.

## **Performance**

The Committee in taking an overview of all performance issues raised concerns that the overall rating for health and social care was green when given the known risks and issues related to the quality of care in some residential and nursing homes have been assessed as inadequate by the Care Quality Commission.

## **Planning services**

The committee will hear the views of several stakeholders on the impact on service delivery as the result of recent restructuring of the planning service. The information provided will be added to the large number of written responses received from town and parish councils and planning agents leading to recommendations being formulated.

## **Adult Social Care**

In conjunction with the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Sub Committee and Audit Committee, a review is being undertaken on adult social care. This service is facing a number of pressures and although this has been recognised nationally by the ability to raise council tax specifically to fund the service this will be insufficient to meet all the challenges being faced. The review will look at key issues, including integrated working, and see what actions are necessary to ensure the continued delivery of good quality and safe care for the elderly and vulnerable within the budget limitations.

**Councillor Dave Stewart**  
**Chairman of Scrutiny Committee**

### **REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY SUB COMMITTEE TO THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY, 20 JANUARY 2016**

The November 2015 meeting highlighted the cost of commissioning Consultants, at a senior level, within Social Services and the impact this had on succession planning, as well as forward planning at a time of change and challenge.

January's meeting also highlighted this concern, and noted this matter had now been picked up by the Employment Committee; and also raised concerns regarding ongoing Ambulance Handover fines and the urgent need to secure a permanent solution; black alert frequency and the link to recent CQC reports on residential care; commissioning pressures on the CCG, and the progress of integration; and the need to ensure safeguarding underpinned future provision at a time of growing demand and reducing resources.

There were visits to Age Concern, Highfield and Firbank Residential Homes, meetings with Healthwatch, Carers UK, several individual stakeholders, and a briefing session for the Scrutiny research into Social Care.

**Councillor Richard Priest**  
**Chairman of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Sub Committee**

**REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE  
TO THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL  
ON WEDNESDAY, 20 JANUARY 2016**

The committee's last meeting was held on 14 January 2016. An overview of fostering on the Island and the plans to progress the service were considered. There is a lack of foster carers on the Island which resulted in placements being purchased from independent fostering agencies, children being placed on the mainland and also in residential placements. The committee supported the plans for development of the service and the additional funding sought, but wanted more detail of the marketing plans.

Members reviewed the Children's Reception Team (CRT) and Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (Mash) activity and performance for the period October 2014 and September 2015.

The committee also received a presentation outlining the Youth Offer and its providers, the council's statutory duties and how the offer was developed and funded.

Finally, on Monday I attended a Centre for Public Scrutiny session on Scrutiny Safeguarding Children.

**Councillor Conrad Gauntlett  
Chairman of the Children's Committee**