

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

NOTES OF THE WORKING GROUP – WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MONDAY 9 SEPTEMBER, 2019 AT 4.00 P.M.

Present: Councillor Ms. M. Freeman (Chairman of Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee)
Councillor C.D. Smith
Councillor Mrs. A. Layton
Councillor Mrs. M.A. Davis
Councillor Mrs. H.M. Sutton
Councillor Mrs. D.M. Todd

Officers: M. Edmonds, Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles
J. Aupers, Head of Governance and Corporate Services
D. Prosser-Davies, Food, Safety and Licensing Manager
J. Hunt, Senior Committee Officer

Apologies: Councillor J.A.A. Newbury

• **Work Programme Discussion**

The Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 2 July, 2019 agreed that a small working group be established to discuss and determine which of the following options would be taken forward to the Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on 5 November, 2019.

- Safety for the visually impaired in the District – issues with mobility scooters
- Uptake of sports facilities and how the usage could be improved, with an opportunity to consider other activities
- Online gambling – impact on families and young people

Additionally, the Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles also asked for the following items to be considered by the Working Group:

- CCG – assessment report
- Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) – review of policy

The Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles suggested that the Group consider each option using the following:

- Purpose
- Review suggested work programme
- Agree work programme
- Scope work programme
- Finalise work programme (with a maximum of 2 options)

- **Scrutiny Work Programme Prioritisation and Discussion**

The Head of Governance and Corporate Services distributed a 'Scrutiny Work Programme Prioritisation' scoring sheet. She explained that the sheet could be used to assess each possible option before finalising the options to take forward.

Review 1 - Safety for the visually impaired in the District – issues with mobility scooters

Councillor D. Smith outlined the issues and problems within the town centres for those people that were visually impaired. He circulated some photos which provided examples of issues that included the siting of 'A' boards and trip hazards. The Group discussed this and the Councillor was keen to see this issue addressed, and that consideration be given to how 'A' boards placed incorrectly impacted upon certain groups.

In response to this, the Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles commented that the Town Centre Partnership may be able to offer some assistance in respect of the issues highlighted.

The Head of Governance and Corporate Services questioned whether this review should in fact sit with the Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee. She indicated that it was possible that some work could be undertaken with relevant parties such as the town planners to consider some of the issues, and report back to Cabinet or possibly the Community Scrutiny Committee.

Review 2 - Online gambling – impact on families and young people

The Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles explained that a motion had been submitted to Council earlier this year around the impact of online gambling on young people and the £2 limit on people using gambling machines in betting offices.

The Food, Safety and Licensing Manager referred to the current work being undertaken in this area, in particular by the Gambling Commission on the harms associated with gambling. He advised that the House of Lords had appointed a Select Committee to consider the Social and Economic Impact of the Gambling Industry and the Select Committee would provide a report by 31 March 2020.

He indicated that from information received, the number(s) of children gambling was reducing, apart from limited fruit machine gambling and use of "grabbers" which was legally allowed. The Council had no control over online gambling and could only control locally those premises licensed within the area (betting shops, amusement centres etc.). It was also difficult to identify the numbers that had been harmed or those vulnerable as a consequence of gambling.

Review 3 - Uptake of sports facilities and how the usage could be improved, with an opportunity to consider other activities

Councillor A. Layton indicated that Cannock North had a high rate of obesity. She advised that there were many sports activities available at the stadium and asked how

participation rates could be increased particularly for constituents in her Ward.

Members discussed the GP referral service in detail and had many concerns particularly with 'signposting' in GP surgeries. The Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles reported that there had been a lot of work undertaken by IHL and last year the number of referrals was the highest, whereby people continued on the 12 week plan and also joined the leisure centre taking out a membership. He also advised that IHL were considering how referrals could automatically be carried out through the Leisure Centre.

Councillor Miss. M. Freeman commented and explained that junior golf was now non-existent and there had been no uptake for a long time. She questioned whether the pricing structure was too high and indicated that the activity had not been well promoted. She also advised that there was currently an issue with the public using the golf course and not paying. Councillor Mrs. D. Todd provided some pricing comparison information with other golf clubs which showed that Cannock was more expensive.

The Head of Governance and Corporate Services referred to the discussion and commented that the Group could invite the CCG and IHL to question them on the areas discussed such as GP referrals, promotion of activities etc.

Review 4 – Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

The Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyle reported that the CCG Annual Assessment report for 2018/19 had been released. There were 4 CCGs in Staffordshire, this included Cannock Chase which had been rated inadequate due to financial and management issues.

He indicated that the Group may wish to extend an invite to the Chair of the Cannock CCG to question the information contained within the Annual Assessment report and also the possible merger of the 6 CCGs to one.

The Chairman provided further clarification to the Group in respect of the possible merger of the CCGs. She had made a request that the Chair of the CCG be invited to a future Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee meeting.

The Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles explained that if the Group wished to pursue this separately, Members could consider scoping some relevant questions prior to the meeting. The Head of Governance and Corporate Services added that the Committee could consider reviewing and following up on meetings with the CCG particularly in light of its inadequate rating.

Review 5 – Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs)

The Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles explained that the Council received a grant for DFGs which the Council were currently struggling to distribute. He considered whether the Policy should be revised to offer a discount given that DFGs were means tested. He explained that applications would be received and then partway through the process it was not uncommon for applicants to 'drop out'.

- **Options to take Forward**

It was agreed that the option in respect of Online gambling – impact on families and young people not be taken forward.

It was also agreed that a separate meeting of the Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee (informal) be arranged (prior to the meeting scheduled for 5 November, 2019) with an invite extended to the Chair of the CCG.

It was agreed that the following options be taken forward for consideration by the Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and/or Working Group.

- Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) – Working Group meeting
- Uptake of sports facilities and how the usage could be improved, with an opportunity to consider other activities – Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee meeting

The Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles referred to the Scrutiny Review Template and advised that he would scope both options and email both to Members of the Working Group.

Close: 5.47 p.m.