

Minutes of the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held at the Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford on Wednesday 21 November 2024

Chairman - Councillor A P Edgeller

Present (for all or part of the meeting):-

Councillors:	
J A Barron	L Nixon
A G Cooper	J T Rose
A D Hobbs	J Thorley
D M McNaughton	-

Also in attendance: - Councillors J M Pert and G P K Pardesi

Officers in attendance:-

J Presland	-	Head of Operations
A Nevin	-	Head of Wellbeing
S Taylor	-	Housing Assistance, Health and Leisure Service Manager
H Smith	-	Strategic Housing and Homelessness Service Manager
J Allen	-	Democratic Services Officer
Also in attendance:-		

Alistair Gould	-	Area Manager - Freedom Leisure
Jeremy Rowe	-	Head of Operations - Freedom Leisure
Les Clarke	-	Executive Director of Housing and Care - Housing
		Plus

CWB15 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2024, as previously circulated, were approved as a correct record.

CWB16 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P A Leason and M Phillips. Also, Councillor J Hood, Cabinet Member - Community Portfolio and G Whitehouse, Head of Regulatory Services.

CWB17 Councillor A P Edgeller - Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Considered the verbal report of Councillor A P Edgeller on matters considered by the Health and Care and Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting held on 28 October 2024. Members were encouraged to view the meeting and read the minutes of the meeting online.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the verbal report be noted.

CWB18 Freedom Leisure Annual Report (Presentation)

Alistair Gould, Area Manager Derbyshire Dales and Stafford Partnership, and Jeremy Rowe, Operations Director delivered a verbal presentation providing members with an update of the service over the last year. A report was circulated with the agenda. This was followed by a question and answer session.

Items discussed included:

- Small decline in schools engagements which is mainly due to school finances.
- Many new staff are appointed on their attitude and ability and Freedom are providing training to ensure they have the appropriate qualifications for their roles.
- Improvements to centres include solar panels, Kelda shower installations and an extensive refurbishment of Stafford's cardiovascular area.
- Rowley Park upgrade.
- Learn to Swim numbers are now improving after a decline.
- Exercise referral has been launched.
- Start/Finish of Stafford 10k and Stafford Half Marathon and impact on footfall in town centre.
- RESOLVED:- that in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee the report and contents of the presentation be noted.

CWB19 Housing Plus Presentation

Les Clarke, Executive Director of Housing and Care provided a summary of Housing Plus updates from the past year. This was followed by a question and answer session.

Items discussed included:

- Back to Basics Pilot employee having big impact in local community
- Time taken to turn round voids. Some properties are returned in less than ideal condition which increases length of time to get new tenants in
- Some of the wellbeing initiatives are available to non-Homes Plus residents
- RESOLVED:- that in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee the report and contents of the presentation be noted.

CWB20 Q2 Performance Report

Head of Wellbeing introduced the appendices and KPI's from the Q2 Performance Report.

Expression of interest for being part of the Food Waste Task and Finish Group to start in January 2025 were welcomed. The group will be 3-4 Members.

It was noted that play areas are being looked at and a paper will be taken to Cabinet in Quarter 4.

RESOLVED:- that in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee the report and contents of the appendices and KPI's be noted.

CWB21 Work Programme

Considered a report presenting the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee's work programme.

RESOLVED:- that in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee the work programme be noted.

CHAIR