

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee of
Adur District and Worthing Borough Councils**

QEII Room, Shoreham Centre

18 October 2018

*Stephen Chipp (Chairman)
Andy McGregor (Vice Chairman)

Adur District Council:

*Carol Albury
Catherine Arnold
Kevin Boram
*Paul Mansfield
Joss Loader
Lavinia O'Connor

Worthing Borough Council:

*Roy Barraclough
Keith Bickers
Rebecca Cooper
*Karen Harman
Charles James
Sean McDonald
Bob Smytherman
Steve Waight

*Absent

JOSC/18-19/33 Declarations of Interest/Substitutions

Councillor Pat Beresford declared his substitution for Councillor Stephen Chipp

Councillor Brian Coomber declared his substitution for Councillor Carol Albury

Councillor Ann Bridges declared her substitution for Councillor Paul Mansfield

Councillor Steve Waight declared an interest as a member of West Sussex County Council

Councillor Bob Smytherman declared an interest as a Member of West Sussex County Council

Councillor Kevin Boram declared an interest as a Member of the West Sussex Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee (HASC) and as a member of West Sussex County Council

Councillor Ann Bridges declared an interest as a Member of the West Sussex Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee (HASC) and as a member of West Sussex County Council

Councillor Keith Bickers declared an interest as a co-opted Member of the West Sussex Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee (HASC)

JOSC/18-19/34 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the Committee held on 20 September 2018 be approved as the correct record and signed by the Chairman

JOSC/18-19/35 Public Question Time

A Member of the public asked the following question:

According to the Sustainability and Transformation Partnership, the NHS in Sussex and East Surrey will be in £900m debt in 20/21 (two years time) if changes are not made. This money can't be cut through little changes here and there. Have the HASC pushed for a real plan as one is yet to be released and will the HASC push for more consultations on actual changes to services? The Chairman of the West Sussex County Council Health and Adult Social Care Committee (HASC) responded that £900M had been forecast if nothing was done. The Chair of the STP had said that the deficit should be viewed attributed to the composite individual organisations rather than the whole. Work was ongoing to see what could be done to 'close gaps'. Members were informed that further Government assistance could be forthcoming should a proportion of the deficit be reduced.

A Member of the public asked the following question:

Mental Health

With mental health services for children and young people experiencing difficulties locally and nationally, in terms of numbers of referrals and capacity to provide treatment, what plans does the Health and Adult Social Care Committee have to ensure that we have meaningful prevention and treatment resources available that will address significant gaps in delivery? The Chairman of HASC responded by detailing the work undergone to scrutinise the performance and finances of the service. The meeting was told that vacancies had affected the performance of the service, there were often inappropriate referrals and that research was forthcoming relating to co-locating mental health therapists with GP's.

A Member of the public asked the following question:

Adults safeguarding

WSSCC has proposed to terminate housing support contracts with providers from April 2019. Is it realistic to close down £6.3m support schemes for people at risk of homelessness, including closing short stay accommodation for vulnerable adults at risk, without increasing the risk of driving more people in our community into homelessness in 2020? 75% reduction of the Local Assistance Network (LAN) will also impact on the most vulnerable people in our community

What work has gone into researching the safety and wellbeing impact for our customers for your 12th December meeting please? The Chairman of HASC outlined the process for assessing the impact of proposed changes including an impact assessment that would be taken to the meeting on the 12 December (HASC had asked for this to be put together at its meeting on the 26 September).

JOSC/18-19/36 Items Raised Under Urgency Provisions

There were no urgent items.

JOSC/18-19/37 Consideration of any matter referred to the Committee in relation to a call-in of a decision

There were no call-ins and there were had been no applications for call in since the last Committee

JOSC/18-19/38 Interview with the Chairman of the West Sussex Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee

Before the Committee was a report by the Director of Digital and Resources, a copy of which had been circulated to all Members, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as item 6. The report provided the Committee with information on the West Sussex Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee (HASC) to provide context to assist it in the interview with and presentation from the Chairman of the HASC, Councillor Bryan Turner of West Sussex County Council (WSSCC).

The Chairman of HASC made a presentation to the Committee. A copy of the presentation is attached to the signed copy of these minutes.

A Member asked the following question *What progress is being made with the Health Hub within Worthing and what Scrutiny arrangements are in place to ensure this project meets the needs of all our community?* The Chairman of HASC told the Committee that the matter was a local issue and would not ordinarily be scrutinised by the HASC. If it felt that there was a problem then Members could raise the issue through the Committee's business planning group via the relevant local authority representative.

A Member asked the following question: *The presentation seems to focus mostly on delivery of health care. Can you tell us what areas of public health are being addressed. This is with particular regard to disease prevention rather than care or treatment?* Members were told about the West Sussex Joint Service Needs Agreement and the ongoing three priority areas 'early years, working age, aging well'. Members were given a summary of work undertaken and how this work was chosen.

A Member asked the following question: *Dementia/Care of the Elderly is HASC satisfied that sufficient resource is being directed to this area of work?* The HASC Chairman explained that an additional £14M had been put into dementia care and that the service would come under budget by the end of the year.

A Member asked the following question: *Has HASC found that West Sussex care homes for the elderly are closing, that it is difficult to recruit care staff (if so why) and if budgets are being overstretched?* There had been a review earlier in the year. Care homes closures happened due to a variety of factors. In terms of Care workers there was a greater number of workers situated in the north of the county who had access to better wages in Surrey and London. Members were told of schemes in place to stimulate demand.

A Member asked the following question: *The first STP said that £47.4 Million be saved from reducing the number of out patient appointments. How can the HASC be sure that this can be done without affecting patient care?* Members were told that changes would be made after rigorously being checked bearing safety and quality of delivery as priorities.

A Member asked the following question: *Has the HASC scrutinised mental health issues? Does the Chairman of the HASC know what local authority financial support is in place to support the Mental Health of our community compared to the physical health?* The Chairman of HASC told Committee about work undertaken as part of 'social prescribing' and continuing work with other health scrutiny authorities on the issue.

A Member asked the following question: *What information does HASC have on the West Sussex suicide rate and plans to address this very important issue?* Members were told that West Sussex County Council had an adopted suicide strategy for 2017/20. West Sussex's annual rate was 7.6/100k, Worthing was 7.3, Adur was 5.4. Brighton and Hove was 15, East Sussex was 17. There was uncertainty around the exact figures as suicide cases could be complicated and not everyone agreed what suicide was in all cases.

A Member asked the following question: *Adults safeguarding - The WSCC's Shared Life Scheme for those with Dementia, Learning disabilities & Mental health conditions has had issues with its 2017 CQC stating issues of safety and well-led factors needed improvement. Please provide update on what is being done to improve this service, in what priority and when hoped to achieve good rating.* Members were told that the two findings of "requires improvement" were related to risk assessments not being completed on time, and regularly reviewed. The service was re-inspected last month. The outcome is not published, but an overall rating of "good" and potentially "outstanding" was expected.

A Member asked the following question: *Recent figures showed that CWS has failed the 18 week referral for treatment for the 10th consecutive month, meaning 2413 people were not given treatment in line with NHS Constitution requirements. What action has HASC taken on this to ensure that resources are put in place to meet the Constitution Requirements.* Members were told that Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust had an improvement plan which included weekly departmental meetings. Members were told about some of the backdrop in relation to the figures which had included significant increases in GP and Neurology referrals.

A Member asked the following question: *What services has HASC referred to the Secretary of State?* Members were told that this had not happened since 2007. There was a checklist that the Committee would refer to in such instances.

A Member asked the following question: *The Joint Health and Wellbeing strategy for the past 3 years lists its 3 priorities as: i) Early Years (0-2 years old) ii) Wellbeing and Resilience iii) Workforce What evidence has been presented to HASC to evidence progress in these three areas?* Members were given the background for how the priorities were measured and that work on a new strategy would begin in January.

A Member asked the following question: *Has HASC considered the removal of the ring fencing of the Public Health Budget in WSCC to be a major risk to the health and wellbeing of the people of West Sussex?* Members were told that so far the

existing funds had been spent as originally intended and that the Chair of HASC had not seen any plans or ideas to use the budget to fund other budgets.

A Member asked the following question: *A London report recently found that Homeless people are four times more likely to visit A&E than the rest of the population. Also, even those that are found accommodation are often back on the streets quickly as they lack support, particularly mental health. Has HASC found this to be the West Sussex experience?* The Chairman of HASC told the Committee that he had not seen any evidence, other than anecdotally, of this. Members were advised that if they had any evidence they should provide it to the Council's HASC representative who could raise the matter with HASC.

A Member asked the following question: *Over the course of the past 12-18 months, what have been the main achievements and contributions of HASC to the health and wellbeing of the people of West Sussex, particularly Worthing and Adur?* The Chairman listed the work of the Committee including the joint work carried out across authorities. When asked about what could have gone better the Chairman mentioned improvements that could have been made about the way the transport service was scrutinised.

A Member asked the following question: *What are the major goals of HASC for the next 12-18 months, and how will these affect the health and wellbeing of the people of West Sussex, particularly Worthing and Adur?* The Chairman told the Committee that the major goal was to reduce health inequalities and improve the Health and Wellbeing of the area.

A Member asked the following question: *Looking at the challenges listed in the presentation, has HASC stated publicly that more resources are needed now?* Members were told that the view of HASC had been added to correspondence from the West Sussex Leader, Louise Goldsmith to Government regarding the need for increased funding for adult social care.

Resolved: that the interviews be noted

JOSC/18-19/30 Crime and Disorder Scrutiny - Interview with the Chairman of the Adur and Worthing Safer Communities Partnership - Councillor David Simmons

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Digital and Resources, a copy of which was sent to all Members, a copy of which was attached to the signed copy of these minutes as item 7. The report provided the Committee with information on the Adur and Worthing Safer Communities Partnership in order that

the Committee could scrutinise the work of the partnership and interview its Chairman, Councillor David Simmons

A Member asked the following question: *Can the Worthing Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing advise me what specific actions are being taken in relation to the Safer Communities Partnership regarding the the reduction of ASB issues in the area surrounding the Changing Tides (previously known as WCHP) hostel at 22 Lyndhurst Road?* The Worthing Cabinet Member for Wellbeing was not present at the meeting however the Chairman of the Safer Communities Partnership read out a response on their behalf.

Adur and Worthing CSP is made up of partners from the Councils, the police and other key agencies. In relation specifically to the Homefield Park and Lyndhurst Road areas of Worthing a number of activities have been underway for some time, and continue to be a priority.

- Homefield Park Local Action Team (LAT) has been in place for a number of months to address issues within the park. LATs are time limited groups that bring together a range of stakeholders to put in place measures/ interventions to problem solve. This group have focused on addressing drug usage in the park. Members identified the need to encourage individuals and families to use the park, in order to drive out behaviour that was unacceptable. The group focused on the need to improve the concession offer in the park as this was key in encouraging people in. This is currently being explored by the Councils team.
- Lyndhurst Road is now a priority patrol area for Operation Minster, which means that there will be additional patrol resources (mainly on foot) in the area on certain days.
- Lyndhurst Rd is also a designated 'Directed Patrol Area' which in effect means that officers are tasked on every shift to attend the location, conduct patrol and record what they have done while there.
- Prevention Sergeants have instructed PCSOs and PCs on their teams to go out of their way to travel through Lyndhurst Road while on their way to complete other tasks elsewhere in the district.
- Two PCs are working closely with local business and the public to jointly problem solve do some problem-solving work.
- The Lead for Early Help and Wellbeing is working closely with the project to identify opportunities for anti social behaviour interventions for those causing nuisance in and around the project (Non residents).

A Member asked the following question: *Do you know what plans the Safer Communities Partnership has in place to help tackle the drug gangs from London exploiting vulnerable residents across our area?* Members were given a synopsis of programmes to raise awareness of the issue, partnerships with other authorities

in Sussex and London and details of an early intervention project looking at risks and vulnerabilities of young people which included criminal exploitation.

A Member asked the following question: *What are the changes in trends of major crime and safety issues in Worthing and Adur, and what key initiatives are in place to respond to these issues?* The Chairman of the CSP told highlighted issues and challenges linked to the rise of 'County Lines' and anti-social behaviour in some areas. The Chairman explained the need to analyse crime statistics in order to fully understand where a raise in figures came from. The Chairman discussed with Members the causes of anti-social behaviour.

A Member asked the following question: *Youth crime, have we seen a rise in this area in Adur and Worthing, has any impact assessment work been done regarding potential links between removal of outreach YS and Youth Centre closures on increase in crimes by young offenders. What strategies are in place to tackle youth crime?* The Chairman told Members of the reduction of the youth service at West Sussex and how it had been planned that the voluntary sector would replace some of the reduced service (this had seen mixed success). Members were told of an ongoing mapping exercise to help understand where to best place youth outreach services. It was acknowledged that there were gaps around 'diversion'. The Chairman discussed with Members the opportunities for local business involvement in youth work.

A Member asked the following question: *The PCC announced that the Worthing and Adur crime and safety partnership will have their budget reduced substantively. What effect will the cuts have this year and what can we do to change that?* Members were told that the Chairman of the SCP had put pressure on the PCC and a response had been received that indicated less money may be taken away than previously suggested. Members were told about the possible effects of the cuts including staffing levels. The meeting was told about the efforts undergone to get additional funding from other sources.

A Member asked the following question: *The report states that the A&WSCP has a statutory duty to reduce crime and disorder. Does the Partnership agree that it is difficult to assess the true level of crime and disorder in Adur and Worthing when the public repeatedly report difficulties in reporting crimes via the 101 system. Complaints that people have been left "hanging on the line" for up to an hour are commonplace.* The Chairman of the SCP expressed sympathy for problems with the 101 number and agreed that improvements could be made, decisions over the service were in the remit of the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner. The questioning Member commented that there was an issue around a lack of feedback following the reporting of crime, the Chairman of the SCP told that Committee that he was happy to raise that issue with the PCC.

A Member asked the following question: *What does the Partnership consider to be its major achievements over the past 12-18 months?* The Chairman listed achievements and told the committee about some of the work carried out regarding the Safer Road Partnership.

A Member asked the following question: *With acquired S106 infrastructure money from varying developments, how are any arising crime issues from the related larger, new developments identified and where have any corresponding S106 monies been spent on crime prevention. For example improving areas with lighting, layout improvements, CCTV, safer routes of walking for vulnerable, additional police community officers etc to avoid crimes?* The Chairman of the SCP explained that 106 monies were for infrastructure and could not be diverted to crime prevention. He advised that the planning of new developments could be 'secured by design' and that attempts could be made to design out crime. In response to a further question members were told that there was still an active neighbourhood watch scheme.

A Member asked the following question: *Recorded violent crime has increased by 120% between 2011 and 2017 in West Sussex. How has this rise been reflected in Adur and Worthing and what is being done to address this issue?* The Chairman of the SCP emphasised that there was a need to breakdown into the figures and understand where and why changes occurred. Members were given the figures for Adur and Worthing and told that more detailed information was available from the office of national statistics. A summary of schemes to address the issue was provided for members including the taxi marshal scheme and support for victims of domestic abuse.

A Member asked the following question: *How does the partnership apportion budgets across priorities.* Members were told that this was done based on evidence.

A Member asked the following question: *Vandalism is ongoing on Monks Rec particularly around the toilet block, owned by ADC, which has been a long term target and was recently subject to an arson attack. ADC has resisted the removal of the fence which allows access to vandals. Can you please advise the plan for tackling this issue and the long term strategy to ensure reduction in this type of vandalism?* Members were told that the toilets had been put in the wrong place originally and plans were being made to remove them.

Resolved: that the interview be noted.

**JOSC/18-19/32 Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme
2018/19**

Before the Committee was a report by the Director of Digital and Resources, a copy of which had been circulated to all Members, a copy of which is attached to a signed copy of these minutes as item 8. The report outlined the work programme of the committee for the 2018/19 Municipal year.

The Committee discussed the work programme and a member requested that the Air Quality Action Plan be combined with the transport working group's findings and be tabled at the same meeting, this was subsequently agreed by the Committee.

The meeting discussed the item on Traveller incursions and the potential formation of a working group to look at the issue. It was agreed that the Chairs and Vice Chairs be appointed as well as two opposition members. It was agreed that Councillors Bob Smytherman and Catherine Arnold join the working group with Cllr Cooper agreeing to substitute for Cllr Arnold when needed to spread the workload.

Resolved: That the work programme be approved and noted as amended

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 9.15pm it having commenced at 6.30pm.

Chairman