

7 February 2018

BROOKE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 15 FEBRUARY 2018

A meeting of the Brooke Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be held at 5.30pm on Thursday 15 February 2018 in Committee Room 1, Town Hall, Rugby.

Councillor Claire Edwards
Chair of Brooke Overview and Scrutiny Committee

A G E N D A

PART 1 – PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. Minutes

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2017.

2. Apologies

To receive apologies for absence from the meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of:

(a) non-pecuniary interests as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors;

(b) pecuniary interests as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors;

(c) notice under Section 106 Local Government Finance Act 1992 – non-payment of Community Charge or Council Tax.

Note: Members are reminded that they should declare the existence and nature of their non-pecuniary interests at the commencement of the meeting (or as soon as the interest becomes apparent). If that interest is a pecuniary interest, the Member must withdraw from the room unless one of the exceptions applies.

Membership of Warwickshire County Council or any Parish Council is classed as a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct. A Member does not need to declare this interest unless the Member chooses to speak on a matter relating to their membership. If the Member does not wish to speak on the matter, the Member may still vote on the matter without making a declaration.

4. Finance and Performance Monitoring 2017/18 Q3 – please refer to report from Cabinet 5 February and RPMS
5. Homelessness – 12 month update
6. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2017/18

Any additional papers for this meeting can be accessed via the website.

Membership of the Committee:

Councillors Claire Edwards (Chair), Mrs A'Barrow, Mrs Bragg, Cranham, Keeling, Mrs New, Pacey-Day, Srivastava and Dr Williams

If you have any general queries with regard to this agenda please contact Veronika Beckova, Democratic Services Officer (01788 533591 or e-mail veronika.beckova@rugby.gov.uk). Any specific queries concerning reports should be directed to the listed contact officer.

If you wish to attend the meeting and have any special requirements for access please contact the Democratic Services Officer named above.

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

<i>Name of Meeting</i>	Brooke Overview and Scrutiny Committee
<i>Date of Meeting</i>	15 February 2018
<i>Report Title</i>	Homelessness – 12 Month Update
<i>Ward Relevance</i>	All
<i>Contact Officer</i>	David Wortley, Community Advice and Support Manager, Tel: 01788 533440
<i>Summary</i>	This report presents the 12 month update following the review of Homelessness in 2016/17.
<i>Financial Implications</i>	There are no financial implications arising from this report.
<i>Risk Management Implications</i>	There are no risk management implications arising from this report.
<i>Environmental Implications</i>	There are no environmental implications arising from this report.
<i>Legal Implications</i>	There are no legal implications arising from this report.
<i>Equality and Diversity</i>	No new or existing policy or procedure has been recommended.

Public Report to the Brooke Overview and Scrutiny Committee

15 February 2018

Homelessness – 12 Month Update

Summary

This report presents the 12 month update following the review of Homelessness in 2016/17.

1. BACKGROUND

The Homelessness Scrutiny Sub-Group was established in response to recent increases in homelessness in the borough. Following a number of meetings and workshops, the sub-group made the following recommendations to help reduce homelessness going forward;

- There is a focus on early intervention through the Trailblazer project and work with partners to better understand the complex, multiple issues of people approaching the service.
- An annual workshop with partners and organisations be introduced to promote joined up thinking and minimise gaps in services.
- The council continue working with local landlords via the Private Sector Leasing Scheme to lessen the need for Band B accommodation.

2. UPDATE ON KEY ACTIONS

2.1 Homeless Prevention Trailblazer

A Warwickshire wide bid to the Homeless Prevention Trailblazers Fund was successful and £865,000 has been received for the trailblazer to operate until December 2019.

The p.h.i.l. (Preventing Homelessness Improving Lives) Team has been operating for some months and is concentrating on the top three reasons for homelessness; loss of private rented accommodation, domestic abuse and parental/carer's evictions.

The team has built links with advice and support agencies throughout the County and working closely with the Housing Options/Advice Teams across the area. Partnership working is key to enable the team to prevent homelessness at least two / three months before the crisis occurs.

The project was officially launched on 29 January 2018 but did have a soft launch last year. To date the team has received 60 referrals Warwickshire wide, 32 of which fell within the categories that they are concentrating on and 7 cases resulted in homelessness being prevented (some case studies will be provided at the meeting). p.h.i.l. is now the first point of contact for all early homelessness preventions.

When working with the client the team is producing a Housing and Wellbeing plan which covers:

- Holistic and tailored approach
- Income maximisation/Training and employment
- Mediation/Tenancy and family support
- Behavioural contract
- Realistic advice
- Referrals to appropriate agencies
- Private rented advice
- Wellbeing information/referrals/signposting

The team will be continuing to develop their skills extend the agencies they are working with and support the partnership working to support Councils with the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act and the associated new duties in April 2018.

2.2 Annual Workshop

A workshop was not held in 2017, however it is planned to hold a workshop in May/June 2018 following the implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act.

The Council has continued to work and meet with partner agencies through the Homelessness Forum. At its latest meeting in December 2017, the purpose of the group was discussed and it was agreed that a group would be established to look at the Terms of Reference for the group.

2.3 Private Sector Leasing Scheme

The team has continued to work with private landlords and has considerably increased the numbers of properties that have been rented from landlords and we are subsequently managing on their behalf. Our current portfolio consists of 24 units for single people and 6 units for families with dependent children. The use of this accommodation has assisted the Council to reduce the use of Bed and Breakfast Accommodation and will also allow the amount of Housing Revenue Account accommodation used to accommodate homeless clients to reduce and used instead to house those on the waiting list.

3. HOMELESSNESS REDUCTION ACT

Significant changes to the way that Homelessness is dealt with are being introduced from 3 April 2018.

The main change is that unlike currently where we work with a client threatened with homelessness within 28 days, this will increase to 56 days. There are four main stages to the new act:

- | | |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Stage 1 | To check if the client is eligible and either homeless or threatened with homelessness within the next 56 days. |
| Stage 2 | Prevention Stage – to take reasonable steps to help the applicant from losing accommodation, if this fails then. |
| Stage 3 | Relief of homelessness stage – to take reasonable steps to help the applicant find somewhere else to live, if this fails then. |
| Stage 4 | The main duty is owed to those in priority need and not intentionally homeless. |

The impact of the new duties will see the Council working with more applicants and for longer. The onus will also be on the applicant to work with the Council through the creation of Personal Housing Plans which will state the actions that the Council will take and the actions that the applicant must take.

For many applicants the final offer will not be the offer of social housing, but instead the offer of a 12 month Assured Shorthold Tenancy in the private sector.

The review of the Housing Service resulted in the proposed merger of the Housing Options Team and the Benefits Team. A report is due to be considered by Cabinet in March to approve the structure of the new Community Advice and Support Team. The combined resources and experience of the merged team will assist the Council in meeting its new duties.

4. SUMMARY

The continued development of the p.h.i.l. project, the new Homelessness Reduction Act duties and the creation of the Community Advice and Support Team will see significant changes to the way that residents receive help and support over the next year.

A further progress report will be submitted in February 2019.

Name of Meeting: Brooke Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 15 February 2018

Subject Matter: Homelessness – 12 Month Update

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Document No.	Date	Description of Document	Officer's Reference	File Reference
1.	13 July 2017	Homelessness Review Report	Brooke OSC	2017/18 Minute 10

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

<i>Name of Meeting</i>	Brooke Overview and Scrutiny Committee
<i>Date of Meeting</i>	15 February 2018
<i>Report Title</i>	Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2017/18
<i>Ward Relevance</i>	None
<i>Contact Officer</i>	Veronika Beckova, Democratic Services Officer, Tel: 01788 533591
<i>Summary</i>	The report updates the committee on the progress of reviews within its remit and details the overview and scrutiny forward work programme for 2017/18.
<i>Financial Implications</i>	There is a budget of £500 available in 2017/18 to spend on the delivery of the overview and scrutiny work programme.
<i>Risk Management Implications</i>	There are no risk management implications arising from this report.
<i>Environmental Implications</i>	There are no environmental implications arising from this report.
<i>Legal Implications</i>	There are no legal implications arising from this report.
<i>Equality and Diversity</i>	No new or existing policy or procedure has been recommended.

Public Report to the Brooke Overview and Scrutiny Committee

15 February 2018

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2017/18

Summary

The report updates the committee on the progress of task group reviews within its remit and details the overview and scrutiny forward work programme for 2017/18.

1. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

The chairs have agreed the content of each committee's work programme and a copy of the future work programme is appended. Committee members are invited to suggest items for inclusion.

1.1 Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2018/19

The annual overview and scrutiny work programme workshop will be held on Wednesday 7 March 2018.

The committee is asked to consider if there are any review topics they would like to put forward for consideration for inclusion in the 2017/18 programme of reviews.

1.2 Joint Overview and Scrutiny Meeting 19 March 2018

The joint meeting will cover the following topics:

- Members Training Needs; and
- Introduction to the Draft Asset Management Strategy.

1.3 Brooke Overview and Scrutiny Committee 12 April 2018

Members of Whittle are invited to attend the meeting of Brooke arranged for 12 April 2018. Items scheduled for the meeting would benefit from joint discussions (please see Appendix).

2. CONCLUSION

The committee is asked to agree the future work programme for the committee.

Name of Meeting: Brooke Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting: 15 February 2018
Subject Matter: Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2017/18

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are no background papers relating to this item.

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2017/18

Work Programme Workshop 7 March 2018

Topic	Description
Work Programme Workshop	Public workshop to discuss topics for scrutiny reviews during 2018/19

Whittle 12 March 2018

Topic	Description
Crime and Disorder	Annual review
Update on Voluntary and Community Sector Contracts	Progress report on position since new charity contracts were issued
Air Quality Monitoring	Progress since report to Whittle on 11 September

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Meeting 19 March 2018

Topic	Description
Member Training Needs	Short item to consider the forward training programme
Introduction to the Draft Asset Management Strategy	Light touch

Brooke 12 April 2018

Topic	Description
Rugby Youth Council	Update on the work of the RYC, MYP and VOX Feedback following the county wide Mental Health Conference in March 2018
Universal Credit	Update
Review of Members' IT and Digitalisation	One-page strategy
Overview and Scrutiny Report 2017/18	Draft annual report prior to submission to Council
Draft Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2018/19	Outcomes of the annual workshop