

Public Document Pack



BARRY KEEL
Chief Executive
Floor 1 - Civic Centre
Plymouth
PL1 2AA

www.plymouth.gov.uk/democracy

Date 22/01/10 Telephone Enquiries 01752 304022 Fax 01752 304819
Please ask for Helen Wright, Democratic Support Officer e-mail helen.wright@plymouth.gov.uk

CUSTOMERS AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE: MONDAY 25 JANUARY 2010
TIME: 10.00 AM
PLACE: COUNCIL HOUSE, NEXT TO THE CIVIC CENTRE

TO FOLLOW

Committee Members–

Councillor Fox, Chair
Councillor Wildy, Vice Chair
Councillors Berrow, Mrs Foster, McDonald, Mrs Nicholson, Roberts, Smith and Mrs Stephens

Please find attached additional information for your consideration under agenda items 7 and 8.

BARRY KEEL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CUSTOMERS AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

- 7. COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION TOOL KIT (TO FOLLOW) (Pages 1 - 2)**

The Head of Performance, Policy and Partnerships will present the 'principles' of the tool kit.

- 8. SAFE AND STRONG THEME GROUP UPDATE (TO FOLLOW) (Pages 3 - 8)**

The Panel will receive an update on the Safe and Strong Theme Group.

Plymouth City Council: Councillor Call for Action (CCfA)
Discussion paper for Customers and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel
January 2010
Prepared by Giles Perritt
Page 1 of 2

Brief Definition of Councillor Call for Action

Section 119 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 amends the Local Government Act 2000 to provide members with the opportunity to ask for discussions at scrutiny committees on issues where local problems have arisen and where other methods of resolution have been exhausted.

Principles on which the successful operation of Councillor Call for Action should be based

- Recognising the role of scrutiny in ensuring transparency in decision-making, identifying mistakes and shortcomings in service delivery and resolving problems through discussion.
- An understanding, and a wish to support the role that ward councillors play as champions and leaders of their communities
- The emerging role of local authority scrutiny processes in providing governance for other statutory members of the Local Strategic Partnership

Establishing a 'Gateway' to CCfA

To ensure that 'other methods of resolution have been exhausted', the following should be considered:

Issues covered by statutory processes, such as licensing, planning and homelessness should be signposted to the appropriate part of the Council
A judgement should be made as to whether an issue is being raised vexatiously
Where issues are being dealt with through the complaints procedure, this process should be allowed to be completed
Ward Councillors should be given the opportunity to deal with the issue through all other appropriate avenues
Does the issue cover a statutory function, and does it affect all or part of a councillor's ward, or anyone living or working in it?

Plymouth City Council: Councillor Call for Action (CCfA)
Discussion paper for Customers and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel
January 2010
Prepared by Giles Perritt
Page 2 of 2

CCfA and Scrutiny

Scrutiny Management Board currently considers Call-ins of executive decisions, and approves work programmes for panels. The Board, or its Chair and Vice-Chair, could consider CCfA requests for action by the appropriate panel. The action could range from a work programme item to a task and finish group, and might result in resolution through officer or cabinet member agreement, or a formal recommendation through the Management Board to Cabinet.

CCfA and Localities

The current proposals for the implementation of locality working could significantly affect the use of the Councillor Call for Action. Locality teams could potentially provide an effective forum for the early resolution of issues that would otherwise become the subject of scrutiny work.



	Agenda Item
Meeting	Safe and Strong Overview and Scrutiny Panel
LSP Visionary Goal	Safe and Strong
LSP Priority Objective	A Safe and Strong City Promoting community safety Maintaining a clean and sustainable environment
Responsible Officer	Andy Bickley, Chair of the Safe & Strong Theme Group
Title	Safe and Strong Theme Group Update
Purpose of Item	To update members of the Scrutiny Panel
Recommendations	To note the update
Date	25 th January 2010



Subject:	Update on Safe and Strong Theme Group
Meeting:	Safe and Strong Overview and Scrutiny Panel held 25th Jan 10
Report Date:	19th Jan 10
Chair of Theme Group:	Andy Bickley
Co-ordinator:	Sandra Oxtan

Purpose of Report:

To update members on current success and areas where performance issues require possible additional support.

Current Status / Developments

Successes:

- Completion of the Third Sector Strategy for Plymouth. The document includes the historical perspectives, the infrastructure needs of front line third sector organisations, partnership arrangements between the LSP and the Consortium and the strategic priorities.
- A very successful Safe and Strong theme group workshop was held on Nov 12th. The agreed outcomes are:
Communities where all the residents are and feel safe.
A clean and sustainable city which continuously strives to consume less, produce less waste and recycle as much of its waste as possible.
All communities are truly empowered, valued and engaged.
- An environmental sustainability task and finish group has been commissioned. An action is being drafted to include recycling initiatives, awareness raising programmes etc. This group will merge with the Customers and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel.
- Agreement reached to review the governance arrangements for the Safe and Strong groups, to include communication between groups and functionality as well as terms of reference and protocols.
- The new City College one week Social Entrepreneurial course started on Nov 30th. This course has been developed following the highly successful rounds of Operation Talents. Course members are from public, private and third sector who will develop community based projects during the week and then hopefully secure funding to deliver them.

Performance / Risks:

Targets unlikely to be met in the next quarter:

Stretch targets for reducing re-offending rates and reducing violent crime are on track.

Areas off track are:

1. Long term stability of looked after children (qtr 2 results 77.5%, required 79%)
2. Stability of placements (qtr 2 results 17.7%, required 11%)
3. Number of domestic violence incidents recorded by police (qtr 2 results 1583, required 7128)

LAA targets.

All on target except:

NI 60 – Core assessments for children's social care carried out within 35 working days of commencement (76.1%, target 80%)

NI 64 – Child protection plans lasting 2 years or more (7.07%, target 3%)

NI 192 - % of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting (32.43%, target 36.7%)

Planned interventions for any failing targets?

Stretch targets

1. Improve the life chances of looked after children

- Long term stability of looked after children.

Increased focus on stability has led to the establishment of a stability focus group to drive improvements in this area. The numbers of children currently in care and the number of placements 'over numbers' has an impact on matching and maintaining stability. Planned Departmental meetings need to analyse factors affecting long term stability resulting in the development of an action plan to improve it.

- Stability of placements

Current action involves: Placement stability meetings; decision making to agree placement moves by service managers only; series of Departmental meetings to consider other action and monthly meetings with performance team to analyse, understand and amend data as necessary.

2. Reduce the harm caused by domestic violence

In order to meet the target we need to record an average of 648 incidents per month between September and March 2010. Work is currently being undertaken by the Police analyst Christine Howard to ascertain whether 3rd party reports have been included in the official figures provided. If not included to date, their inclusion would potentially improve performance by approx. 70 reports per month, for the past few months and bring us closer to target.

LAA targets

NI 60 Core assessments for children

The robust action taken to ensure caseloads are at appropriate levels has impacted on Social Workers' ability to complete Initial Assessments (IAs) and Core Assessments (CAs) in a timely manner & although children & families have been seen within timescales some significant delays in inputting to the system have occurred. A new duty rota is now in place to ensure IAs & CAs are completed to time scales in the future.

NI 64 Child protection plans lasting 2 years or more

Less than 3% of children with a plan have had a plan for more than 2 years. A small number of de registrations in the first quarter were for children who had had a plan for more than 2 years and this has had an impact on the indicator because of the relatively low numbers of de registrations that take place in any one quarter. This will improve over the year as the overall number of de registrations for the year increases. In addition all cases with a Child Protection Plan will be audited

NI 192 Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting

The proportion of household waste diverted in September 2009 remained 0.6% below the annual target and the cumulative performance to date indicates that there is a significant risk that the annual target will not be met. Task and finish group to address some issues.

Issues that will impact on other Theme Groups:

The draft Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy will be published shortly. This work crosses all theme groups, the 'Safe, Sensible, Social' framework has been used.
