

Service Plan Member Panel

13th December 2012

Present: Cllrs Warfield (Chair), Mrs Bacon, Ms Perkins

Apologies: Cllrs Mrs Allsopp, Mrs Arnold, Mrs Woodward

In attendance: Cllr Greatorax, Helen Spearey and Lesley Bovington

Community and Partnerships Service Plan - issues raised

1. The lack of public transport to the National Memorial Arboretum was discussed; it was agreed that opportunities to assist using LDC community transport to meet this need would be explored.
2. Jigsaw continues to be managed through LDC. However, once North Lichfield Initiative have achieved charitable status, it is intended that the lease for Jigsaw would be transferred. Concerns were raised that the hub is closed too frequently, potentially owing to a recent loss of volunteers.
3. Initial (half year) monitoring of the Service Level Agreements has taken place and performance is on track; the Member Panel which oversaw the commissioning process has recently been reconvened to assess the outcomes to date (see separate agenda item, Community, Housing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee).
4. Noted that Councillor Mrs Arnold has been proposed as the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner; this will be considered by the Police and Crime Panel. Concern was expressed regarding the potential for funding to be shifted to other more 'needy' parts of the county/city. However, we have a very strong partnership locally and it is hoped that the PCC will enable this to be sustained.
5. Considering the Plans for 2013/14, Members felt that the outcomes achieved are considerably outweighed by the investment made delivering good value for money.
6. There is considerable synergy between the ambitions and plans of the District and those of partner organisations; we are all 'singing from the same hymn sheet'.
7. A suggestion was made to invite the incoming Chief Executive to a future CHH O&S meeting to hear how strongly Members and officers feel about the District.
8. The future budget was considered and it was noted that the government settlement would be announced shortly which may bring further (potentially significant) pressures on our financial resources.
9. The achievements and triumphs of the team may not be acknowledged as widely as they should be; it was agreed that more work on profile would be useful
10. The networking role of the team is considered to be vital and can facilitate problem solving; engaging and working together with partners is integral to the majority of the council's work.

11. Overall, Members felt that the team achieves value for money and provide a quality service.