

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**8th MAY 2013**

**REPORT OF THE  
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

## **MEMBERS POLICY SEMINAR PROGRAMME**

### **SUMMARY**

This report provides Council with an overview of content from the Members Policy Seminars held in April 2013 which provided updates on Healthwatch & NHS Complaints Advocacy and the Probation service. Due to the number of special member briefings on the budget, the March seminar was cancelled.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Council are recommended to:

1. Receive this report and note its contents.

### **BACKGROUND**

1. Members Policy Seminars are an important vehicle for both informing and consulting with Members on a variety of topics from Policy and Legislative changes, contributions to Government consultations, and providing an update on local service provision from partner organisations. They have been in place since January 2009 and are particularly useful for those issues which are of importance to the Council or partners but are in the early stages of development, or those which will be of interest to Members, out with the usual reporting arrangements.
2. A programme of seminars is set annually with events planned on a monthly basis. Topics are reviewed monthly by the Corporate Management Team to ensure issues are current and discussions and information provision is timely. Special, additional seminars are arranged as required.

### **SUMMARY OF THE TOPICS COVERED IN APRIL 2013.**

3. From the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 the Authority now has responsibility for the commissioning and contract monitoring of the Healthwatch contract. In the Stockton area this was awarded to the Pioneering Care Partnership. The NHS Complaints Advocacy Service was commissioned on a regional basis and was awarded to Carers Federation Limited. Jane Hartley, Chief Executive of Pioneer Care Partnership and Sue Ewington, an advocate from the Carers Federation, provided background information on their respective organizations, identifying their vision, purpose and operational practices. Both organizations will be working closely over the coming months and years to ensure effective provision and a wide knowledge of their services across Stockton Borough. Key areas covered in the presentation are detailed below:

## **Pioneer Care Partnership**

- Remit included both Health and Social Care Services
- Governance arrangements
- Supports the development of services
- Gathers views of patients, the public, users and carers
- Involves scrutiny by wide breadth of local people including elected members
- Provides advice and information
- Supports complaints and signposts to the NHS complaints advocacy service
- PCP awarded the contract for Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland
- Operating model involves working in partnership with Stockton residents, MIND, Know How NE and Tristar homes.

## **Carers Federation**

- Funded by the Department of Health
- Collaboration across 11 of the North East Authority areas
- Provide free confidential and independent advice
- Service supports advice on NHS funded treatments, Care or Public Health issues
- Empowers and support individuals to achieve the outcome they desire
- Work with a number of stakeholders including Trusts, PALS, PCP etc

4. For both these organisations it is early days in terms of their operational activity in the Stockton areas however both presentations identified a proactive approach to working with the Council, stakeholders, marketing and publicity to ensure a smooth transition to the new arrangements
5. The second presentation was given by Lucia Saiger-Burns from the Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust and provided a reminder for members on the work of the service, current achievements and future challenges. The trust provides advice to sentencers and the Parole Board, supervises offenders in the community, supports their rehabilitation and aims to reduce reoffending rates. Work is also undertaken to support victims, who also play an important role in the rehabilitation of offenders.
6. The Trust continues to have a good reputation with high levels of performance, Stockton being one of their flagship areas in terms of success rates. They work in partnership with many other organisations and their multi agency approach contributes significantly to their success rates, high levels of performance and satisfaction with the service that users receive. The presentation identified the numbers coming through the service, success rates to date and also provided feedback from users on the effectiveness and satisfaction with the services they have received.
7. An overview of the proposed changes to the Probation Service was discussed and Lucia identified that the Trust had commented on the Governments consultation response with respect to these changes. Final outcome from the consultation is expected spring/summer 2013.
8. All slides, agenda and supporting material from the seminars can be accessed at <http://kyit.stockton.gov.uk/members/policyupdatesessions>
9. A regular update report on members seminar events held will be provided to Council at each meeting going forward.

## **FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial**

11. There are no financial implications arising as a direct result of this report.

### **Legal**

12. There are no legal implications arising as a direct result from this report.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

13. This report is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

## **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

14. This report is not subject to Equality Impact Assessment as it makes no proposals for service development or policy change.

## **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS**

15. Members Policy Seminars help the Council achieve all its objectives as outlined in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

## **CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS**

16. No external consultation has taken place on this report.

Julie Danks  
Corporate director of Resources  
[Julie.danks@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:Julie.danks@stockton.gov.uk)  
Tel number 01642 527007

Background Papers  
Slides/ Presentation from the member seminar programmes.

### Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Members Policy Seminars affect all wards in the Borough.

### Property

This report has no implications for the Council's Capital Programme and Asset Management Plan.