

MEMBERS POLICY SEMINAR PROGRAMME

SUMMARY

This report provides Council with an overview of content from the Members Policy Seminar in June and July 2014 that provided detail on Census 2011 outturn, The Domestic Abuse Strategy, A Public Health update and details of the consultation on the Care Act 2014. .

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 TOPIC COVERED IN JUNE & JULY 2014

3. An item on the Census 2011 outturn and key messages was provided which supported the recommendations made by the Regeneration and Transport Select committee following their review of the Use of Demographic Information. Tees Valley Unlimited, who provides detailed analysis of census data and are part of the ONS Census Planning group, provided an update of the data released to date. The presentation used a variety of graphic examples to illustrate how often complex data can be more easily understood in a graphical or diagrammatic format. The presentation covered the following areas:
 - Results from Census 2011
 - Key changes between 2001 and 2011 census
 - An understanding of what census data is used to inform/support
 - Identified other data sets held locally that when used in conjunction with Census data provide a richer picture.

4. The second item on the June Agenda presented the recently approved Domestic Abuse Strategy. Peter Kelly Director of Public Health detailed the process and consultation arrangements undertaken during the development of the Strategy , providing further detail on the following aspects:
 - Definition of Domestic Abuse
 - Partnership arrangements supporting Domestic Abuse
 - Variety of supporting statistics by ward
 - Impact of Domestic Abuse
 - Incidents or events that have a link to increases in Domestic Abuse or reporting
 - The vision, the themes and the action plan contained within the Domestic Abuse strategy.

5. The July seminar provided a focus on Health related matters including a run through of the work of Dr McGonigle who was the Chief Medical Officer for Stockton from 1924 until 1939. A comparison of his responsibilities and work was considered alongside the public health challenges the Council faces today. Peter Kelly's Director of Public Health's presentation covered the following:
 - Comparisons between historical and present day public health issues
 - Identification of modern day public health issues such as drug and alcohol, dementia, early detection of cancers and healthy heart checks.
 - New NHS landscape update.

6. The final presentation provided an opportunity for members to be consulted on the current guidance issued in connection with the Care Act 2014. The presentation provide da background and context to the consultation document and covered the following areas:
 - Details of the Act
 - Statutory Framework for Adult Safeguarding
 - General Responsibilities of the Act
 - Other requirments of the Act e.g assessment & eligibility, integration/ partnership working, transition from childhood, prison
 - Funding arrangements
 - Risks and challenges
 - Impact on the Mental Health Capacity Act.

7. All slides, agenda and supporting material from the seminars can be accessed at <http://kyit.stockton.gov.uk/members/policyupdatesessions>

8. A regular update report on members seminar events held will be provided to Council at each meeting going forward.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial

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

Legal

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

RISK ASSESSMENT

11. 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

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

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

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

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

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

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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.