

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL MEETING

Minutes

MONDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2019

PRESENT: Councillor D Shaw (Chair)

Councillors J Aberley, G Bentley, I Herdman, K Hoptroff, J T Jones, K Martin, T McNicol, T Riley, L Swindlehurst, P Taylor, P Wood and N Yates

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor M Bowen, L A Malyon, H Plimley and J Redfern

APOLOGIES: Councillors G Heath, B A Hughes and P Roberts

161 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.**

DECIDED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Panel held on the 30th September 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

162 **MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING OF THE POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME PANEL.**

DECIDED: That the minutes from the meeting of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel held on 28th October 2019 be noted.

163 **NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS, IF ANY.**

There were none.

164 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:**

Agenda No.	Member Declaring Interest	Nature of Interest
Agenda Item 7 – Annual CAB Update	Cllr K. Hoptroff and Cllr L. Swindlehurst	Other – Trustees of Leek CAB.

165 **QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDERS, IF ANY.**

There were none.

166 **CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU (LEEK, CHEADLE & STAFFORDSHIRE NORTH AND STOKE ON TRENT)- ANNUAL UPDATE.**

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Individual presentations for Biddulph, Cheadle and Leek Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB) were considered by the Panel. Each presentation contained statistical information and case studies.

Sam Hubbard, Generalist Services Manager, introduced the presentation on behalf of the Biddulph CAB, Dawn Keates represented the Cheadle CAB and Lindon Parr gave the presentation for the Leek CAB.

The Chair of the Panel had offered the CAB in Cheadle free use of a room at the Werrington Wellbeing Library and asked for this to be reconsidered. Dawn Keates was aware that this had been suggested would look into this matter.

Discussion took place around the calculation used for the financial time given by volunteers of the Bureaux and members felt that this figure should be much higher, due to the demands of the job. The staffing structures, opening times, response to requests for appointments and funding streams were explained to the Panel. If a member wished to receive more detailed figures then they were welcome to attend a meeting of the Trustees.

A query in relation to rent paid by the CABs was raised and it was confirmed that the CAB in Leek paid a discounted service charge for the use of Moorlands House but the others did have rental responsibilities at their locations.

In response to a question around the figure for the number of client issues dealt with, officers explained that although clients asked advice in relation to one problem, it was often the case that multiple and complex issues were identified.

Members complimented the staff/volunteers of the CABs for their hard work and professionalism and felt that the service offered to clients was very good value for money. The extensive level of training which staff completed was also noted.

The contact telephone numbers for the CAB would be circulated to the Panel after the meeting.

DECIDED: That the update be received

167 **WORK PROGRAMME**

At this point of the meeting, Councillor Yates asked for the queries for Your Housing Group raised at the previous meeting to be followed up.

Councillor Bentley raised his concerns in relation to the availability of fire engines and retained firefighters. The Panel agreed to email any queries or questions for Matthew Ellis – Staffordshire Commissioner to the Democratic Services Team, in advance of the meeting due to be held on 23rd March 2020.

DECIDED: That the Panel's Work Programme for 2019/20 be agreed.

The meeting closed at 3.30 pm

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_____Chairman _____Date