

# **Bolton Council**

## **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022**

## **SUMMONS AND AGENDA**





## **BOLTON COUNCIL**

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Members of the Council are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held in the Council Chamber, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Town Hall on Wednesday next, 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2022 at 7.00p.m. when the following business is proposed to be transacted: -

**1. Minutes**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Council held on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 (Section A).

**2. Changes in Committee Membership and Appointments to Other Bodies**

**3. Questions under Standing Order No. 9(a)**

**4. Questions under Standing Order No. 9(c)**

**5. Committee Proceedings**

To approve the proceedings of the following Committee:-

Planning Committee (See Section B)

Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee (See Section C)

**6. Scrutiny Committees**

To receive and consider the proceedings of the undermentioned Scrutiny Committees:-

Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee (See Section D)

Health Overview and Adult Social Care Scrutiny  
Committee (See Section E)

Place Scrutiny Committee (See Section F)

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee (See Section G)

## **7. Motions under Standing Order No.4**

### **(a) Motion in the name of Councillor McMulkin –**

The value and importance of parks and green spaces to local residents has been brought strikingly home since the onset of the Covid pandemic, especially for residents living in homes without access to outdoor living space. Public Parks and green spaces are not only a cornerstone in our efforts relating to the climate crisis, but significantly contribute to health and wellbeing and should not simply be judged by what they cost to maintain.

We know from numerous research studies that access to local quality green spaces improves the physical and mental health and wellbeing of all sections of the community. Indeed, the Marmot Review of 2010, recommends that improving the availability of good quality green spaces across the social gradient will help reduce health inequalities.

In terms of health, parks and green spaces save the NHS at least £111 million per year through prevented GP visits, which is enough to pay for more than 3,500 nurses.

Fields in trust research confirms that any decision by a public body to remove a park or green space is often short-sighted and will, in most cases, cost more money than is saved.

The evidence is clear: green spaces are good; they do good and they need to be protected for good.

I therefore call on this Council to as a matter of urgency hold a PDG to consider how it can establish protection of all the eligible public parks and green spaces in the Borough from being sold off or built upon in perpetuity and agree to appoint the mover of the motion as a member of this PDG.

(b) Motion in the name of Councillor Newall –

Many of the streets in this borough consist of traditional terraced houses and the only parking available to residents is on the street. Even in non-urban areas of the borough, we still have many properties that again only afford parking on the main road. Common courtesy usually prevails when it comes to motorists parking outside a disabled resident's home. However, there are an increasing number of disabled residents who are coming forward and vocalising how they struggle when motorists park outside their home resulting in the inconvenience in either parking their own car or being picked up/dropped off as a passenger. Of course, many other councils in the UK now allow disabled residents to have markings outside their home to remind motorists of the fact that a particular space is there for a disabled person at that address.

This Council acknowledges that presently – due to lack of available Council resources – that any cost associated with marked disabled parking bays should be borne by residents, as is the practise of many other Councils in the UK. However, in recognition of the problem this Council agrees to convene a Policy Development Group to explore the extent to which a scheme can be introduced that could result in disabled residents having marked parking bays on the road outside their home.

(c) Motion in the name of Councillor McKeon –

In his recent letter to Boris Johnson, Conservative MP, Jesse Norman described the Home Office's proposal to send asylum seekers to Rwanda as 'ugly.' The Archbishop of Canterbury in his Easter sermon said of the proposed scheme that it 'cannot stand God's judgement.' This Council expresses its agreement with Jesse Norman and Justin Welby and declares its view that the scheme is cruel and inhuman. It bases this contention on its understanding of the Refugee Convention and the well established culture of welcome that Bolton has offered to refugees and asylum seekers over many years. The plan to send asylum seekers to Rwanda represents a denial of British values of justice and compassion and is a betrayal of our obligation to support the vulnerable. This Council instructs its Chief Executive to write to the Home Secretary, Priti Patel and to the Borough's three MPs to object in the strongest terms to a policy that brings shame on our country.

(d) Motion in the name of Councillor Hayes –

Council welcomes any sensible initiative to increase home ownership and allow residents to get on to the housing ladder.

However, Council has severe reservations about recently announced plans to extend the 'Right to Buy' to tenants of Housing Associations. Based on the experiences of the similar initiative launches by the Thatcher Government any such policy would be likely to lead to:

- a further reduction in the supply of social housing for rent as promises to replace those properties sold were not kept;
- a steep increase in rents in both the social and private rented sectors; and
- a deterioration in standards of remaining social housing.

Council resolves to:

1. reflect these concerns in any consultation about changes or extensions to Right to Buy policy; and
2. Make its views known to the Borough's Members of Parliament and ask for their support in opposing any proposals to extend the policy.

(e) Motion in the name of Councillor Peel –

Council notes with disappointment that a letter from the Secretary of State, George Eustace to the Mayor of Greater Manchester dated 1st June 2022, again confirms the Government's intention to impose a "category C charging scheme" within Greater Manchester. This is in direct opposition to the proposals and developing plan by the 10 GM authorities for category B non-charging CAZ. This is also in direct contradiction to pledges made during the recent local elections from Conservative candidates across GM to scrap any form of CAZ charging.

Council also notes that the Government has imposed CAZ charging on other cities in England; a clear track record on the subject.

Council reaffirms its belief that an incentive driven scheme and not a charging scheme is the best way for all of the 10 boroughs of Greater Manchester to achieve clean air compliance

Council notes that the Secretary of State has suggested that the charging zone could cover only an undefined city centre area of Manchester, however council further notes that the legal directive from the Government on Bolton Council to take action to reduce emissions in the shortest possible time and no later than 2026, remains in

place. As the directive hasn't been lifted, the latest Government statement appears to forget that it exists! It is noted that private hire, taxi and white van drivers from Bolton will still be subject to daily charging as they go about their business in the undefined city centre area. It is further noted that a charging zone in one borough of GM would not alter levels of exceedance in Bolton or the other boroughs. Council can only therefore conclude that the letter from the Secretary of State demonstrates a lack of understanding about clean air issues across GM as well as the basic and economic geography of the region.

Council is heartened by the fact that despite the confirmation of the intent to impose charging by the Secretary of State, the reply by Andy Burnham on 2nd June makes it crystal clear that GM officials will continue to present evidence based proposals for an investment led approach that delivers clean air benefits through the appropriate financial support to those most polluting vehicles to upgrade as soon as possible.

Council resolves to write to the Secretary of State to reiterate our opposition to any form of charging CAZ and support for a non-charging investment led CAZ within the GM region.

(f) Motion in the name of Councillor McGeown –

Council believes that the most valuable resource the health service has is its staff. Yet the NHS is in the midst of a chronic workforce crisis, driven by years of insufficient investment in training new staff, inadequate workforce planning and lack of government accountability.

Council believes that compared to other nations, England has a very low number of doctors relative to the population. The average number of doctors per 1,000 people in OECD EU nations is 3.7, but



England has just 2.9. Germany, by comparison, has 4.3. The NHS was once the envy of the world but not today.

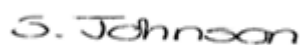
Furthermore, in February 2020, in a bid to reverse the stasis in GP workforce numbers, the Government announced a drive to recruit an additional 6,000 GPs by 2024 and yet in the year between March 2021 and April 2022, the NHS lost 379 GP partners and 364 salaried and locum GPs. This means that the number of fully qualified GPs by headcount decreased by 743 net in just under a year.

Council and the Primary Care Networks/ Neighbourhoods have taken huge strides to try and fill the shortfall with specialist nurses and paramedics but even with the 2022 Health & Care Act the figures don't lie and we know the NHS is in serious trouble. This is not uniform across the country, and we know that the North is one of the worst areas for patient to GP ratio.

Accordingly, Council resolves to:

1. Request the Government to acknowledge that due to failures in their policies access to health has fallen sharply in places like Bolton.
2. Request the Government to urgently review primary care in areas such as Bolton as part of the workforce plan due in the autumn, outlined by Amanda Pritchard Chief Exec NHSE to Health Select Committee on 7th June and create extra funding to improve our health outcomes.
3. Request the Government to aid our new local integrated care system to prioritise primary care in their overall strategy and funding.

4. Make these views known to the Borough's MPs and ask for their support



S. Johnson

SUE JOHNSON  
Deputy Chief Executive  
Town Hall, Bolton

15<sup>th</sup> June, 2022

The proceedings of the Cabinet and Executive Cabinet Member Portfolio meetings from 21<sup>st</sup> March to 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2022, together with the Audit Committee and Constitutional Panel, are included for information only in a separate volume.

**BOLTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH**

**2022/2023**

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**18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022**

Present - Councillors Mrs. Thomas (Mayor), Mrs. Fairclough (Deputy Mayor), Abdullah, Adia, Allen, Atcha, M. Ayub, N. Ayub, Baines, Brady, Bullock, Challender, Connor, Cowen, Cox, Dean, Donaghy, Eckersley-Fallon, Finney, Fletcher, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Hewitt, Hill, Hornby, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McKeon, McMulkin, Meehan, Mistry, Morgan, Mort, Murray, Muslim, Newall, Patel, Peel, Priest, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Taylor-Burke, Walsh, Warren, Weatherby, D. Wilkinson, T. Wilkinson, Wright and Zaman.

**1. APPOINTMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs. Fairclough and seconded by Councillor Dean -

That Councillor Cox be appointed Leader of the Council until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May, 2023 or until such time as the Council removes him from office.

Whereupon as an amendment, it was moved by Councillor Khurram and seconded by Councillor Jiva -

That Councillor Peel be appointed Leader of the Council until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May, 2023 or until such time as the Council removes him from office.

The amendment was then put to the vote, where the voting was as follows: –

For the Amendment, 21 viz:

Councillors Adia, Allen, Atcha, M. Ayub, N. Ayub, Challenger, Donaghy, Fletcher, Haworth, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McKeon, Mistry, Mort, Murray, Peel, Sherrington, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas and Zaman.

Against the Amendment, 36 viz:

Councillors Baines, Brady, Bullock, Connor, Cowen, Cox, Dean, Eckersley-Fallon, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Hayes, Heslop, Hewitt, Hill, Hornby, McMulkin, Meehan, Morgan, Muslim, Newall, Patel, Priest, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Taylor-Burke, Walsh, Warren, Weatherby, D. Wilkinson, T. Wilkinson and Wright.

Abstained, 1 viz:

Councillor Abdullah.

Whereupon, the amendment was declared lost.

The original motion was then put to the vote, where the voting was as follows:-

For the Motion, 24 viz:

Councillors Baines, Brady, Bullock, Connor, Cowen, Cox, Dean, Eckersley-Fallon, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Galloway, Hartigan, Haslam, Hewitt, Hill, Meehan, Morgan, Muslim, Patel, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Taylor-Burke, Walsh and Warren.

Against the Motion, 33 viz:

Councillors Adia, Allen, Atcha, M. Ayub, N. Ayub, Challenger, Donaghy, Fletcher, Grant, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Hornby, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Mort, Murray, Newall, Peel, Priest, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas, Weatherby, D. Wilkinson, T. Wilkinson, Wright and Zaman.

Abstained, 1 viz:

Councillor Abdullah.

Whereupon, the original motion was declared lost.

## **2. FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs. Fairclough and seconded by Councillor Khurram -

That Councillor Cox or Councillor Peel be appointed Leader of the Council until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May, 2023 or until such time as the Council removes him from office.

The Motion was then put to the vote, where the voting was as follows:-

For Councillor Cox, 27 viz:

Councillors Abdullah, Baines, Brady, Bullock, Connor, Cowen, Cox, Dean, Eckersley-Fallon, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Galloway, Hartigan, Haslam, Hewitt, Hill, Hornby, Meehan, Morgan, Muslim, Patel, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Taylor-Burke, Walsh and Warren.

For Councillor Peel, 19 viz:

Councillors Adia, Atcha, M. Ayub, N. Ayub, Challender, Donaghy, Haworth, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McKeon, Mistry, Mort, Murray, Peel, Sherrington, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas and Zaman.

None of the above, 12 viz:

Councillors Allen, Fletcher, Grant, Hayes, Heslop, McMulkin, Newall, Priest, Weatherby, D. Wilkinson, T. Wilkinson and Wright.

Whereupon, Councillor Cox was appointed Leader of the Council until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May, 2023 or until such time as the Council removes him from office.

### **3. APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL PANEL**

It was moved by Councillor Cox and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Fairclough and agreed-

That Councillors Cox, Dean, Mrs. Fairclough, Galloway, Morgan, Walsh, Donaghy, Haworth, McKeon, Peel, Mrs. Thomas, Hayes, Sanders, Grant, Allen and Newall be appointed members of the Constitutional Panel for the Municipal Year 2022/2023.

(The meeting started at 10.00 a.m. and finished at 11.00 a.m.)

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## **BOLTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH**

**2022/2023**

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**18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022**

Present - Councillors Mrs. Thomas (Mayor), Mrs. Fairclough (Deputy Mayor), Adia, Atcha, M. Ayub, N. Ayub, Baines, Brady, Bullock, Challender, Connor, Cowen, Cox, Dean, Donaghy, Eckersley-Fallon, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Haworth, Hayes, Hewitt, Hill, Hornby, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McKeon, Meehan, Mistry, Morgan, Mort, Murray, Muslim, Newall, Patel, Peel, Priest, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Taylor-Burke, Walsh, Warren and Wright.

### **4. ELECTION OF MAYOR**

The Chief Executive called upon the Council to elect a Councillor to be Mayor of Bolton for the ensuing year.

Whereupon -

Councillor Akhtar Zaman having been proposed by Councillor Cox and seconded by Councillor Donaghy was elected Mayor of the Metropolitan Borough for the ensuing year, and the retiring Mayor declared him elected accordingly.

The newly-elected Mayor then accepted the said Office by making and subscribing the declaration required in that behalf.

Following the election of the Mayor, Councillor Zaman thereon presided over the meeting.

## **5. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

It was moved by Councillor Cox, seconded by Councillor Peel and resolved –

That Councillor Mrs. Linda Thomas be appointed as Deputy Mayor until immediately after the Election of Mayor at the next Meeting of the Council on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2023.

(The meeting started at 11.15 a.m. and finished at 12.00 noon)

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**NOTES**



## **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 24<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2022

Present – Councillors Walsh (Chairman), Allen, Finney, Iqbal (as deputy for Councillor McKeon), Galloway (as deputy for Councillor Connor), Hill (as deputy for Councillor Dean), Mistry, Morgan, Murray (as deputy for Councillor Ayub), Peel, Radcliffe, Sherrington, D. Wilkinson and T. Wilkinson.

Councillor Walsh in the Chair.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ayub, Brady, Connor, Dean, McKeon and McMulkin.

### **35. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

### **36. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Under the approved delegation arrangements, the Committee considered various planning applications, as set out in the report submitted by the Director of Place (Development), for permission to undertake developments, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act.

Councillor McKeon, in his capacity as Ward Councillor, attended the meeting and spoke in respect of application numbered 12610/21.

Members of the public addressed the Committee in respect of the following applications:

11568/21  
12391/21

11567/21

12632/21

Resolved – That the various planning applications submitted by the Director of Place (Development) be dealt with, as follows:-

Application Number	Proposal and Location	Decision
12632/21	Erection of a single dwelling with associated works (plot no. 5) on land at Grundy Fold Farm, Chorley Old Road	<p><b>Refused, as recommended in the report.</b></p> <p>A motion to refuse the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for refusal of the application (13):</p> <p>Councillors Finney, Galloway, Hill, Iqbal, Mistry, Morgan, Murray, Peel, Radcliffe, Sherrington, Walsh, D. Wilkinson and T. Wilkinson</p> <p>Members voting against refusal of the application (1):</p> <p>Councillor Allen</p>
12534/21	Variation of condition 20 on 91673/14 (extension of existing farmhouse along with demolition of existing outbuildings and erection of 4 no dwellings) to facilitate amendments to the dwelling on plot 4 on land at Grundy Fold Farm, Chorley Old Road	<p><b>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</b></p> <p>A motion to approve the application, subject to conditions, was moved and seconded.</p>

		<p>Members voting for approval of the application (11):</p> <p>Councillors Allen, Finney, Iqbal, Mistry, Morgan, Murray, Peel, Radcliffe, Sherrington, Walsh and D. Wilkinson.</p> <p>Members voting against approval (3):</p> <p>Councillors Galloway, Hill and T. Wilkinson.</p>
09801/20	Variation of condition 14 on planning approval 97782/16 (introduction of an additional access to/from the site) at Montcliffe Quarry, George's Lane, Horwich	<p><b>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</b></p> <p>A motion to approve the application, subject to conditions, was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval (14):</p> <p>Councillors Allen, Finney, Galloway, Iqbal, Hill, Mistry, Morgan, Murray, Peel, Radcliffe, Sherrington, Walsh, D. Wilkinson and T. Wilkinson.</p>

12391/21	Erection of single storey extension at rear together with alterations at first floor to form rear terrace area at Toro, 69 Church Street, Horwich	<p><b>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report, and additional conditions regarding opening of the balcony from 5.00pm onwards only and the end of the balcony overlooking the nearby school being finished in obscure glass.</b></p> <p>A motion to approve the application with the two additional conditions was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application with the two additional conditions (12):</p> <p>Councillors Allen, Finney, Galloway, Hill, Iqbal, Mistry, Morgan, Peel, Radcliffe. Walsh, D. Wilkinson and T. Wilkinson.</p> <p>Members voting against approval of the application (2):</p> <p>Councillors Murray and Sherrington.</p>
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12610/21	Erection of a detached dwelling with access from Medway Drive on land at Medway Drive, Horwich	<p><b>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</b></p> <p>A motion to approve the application, subject to conditions, was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (14):</p> <p>Councillors Allen, Finney, Galloway, Hill, Iqbal, Mistry, Morgan, Murray, Peel, Radcliffe, Sherrington, Walsh. D. Wilkinson and T. Wilkinson</p>
11567/21	Erection of 183 no dwellings with associated access, hard and soft landscaping, substation, walls and fences, drainage and open space including ecological mitigation and other associated works on land at Bowlands Hey, Westhoughton (Phase 5)	<p><b>Refused</b></p> <p><b>The proposed residential development of the application site would represent inappropriate development of 'Other Protected Open Land' and therefore would be contrary to Policy CG6AP of Bolton's Allocations Plan and Policies OA3.3 and OA3.6 of Bolton's Core Strategy.</b></p>

		<p><b>The proposed development would also have significant local landscape and visual impacts which would not maintain or respect the landscape character of the area, and the proposed design and layout does not constitute good urban design and would impact detrimentally on the area's character and appearance, contrary to policies CG3 and OA3 of Bolton's Core Strategy and guidance detailed in section 12 of the NPPF. Applying the "tilted balance" of paragraph 11 of the National Planning Policy Framework, it is considered that the adverse impacts of the development would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits of the proposed development.</b></p> <p>A motion to refuse the application was moved and seconded.</p>
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		<p>Members voting for refusal of the application (14):</p> <p>Councillors Allen, Finney, Galloway, Hill, Iqbal, Mistry, Morgan, Murray, Peel, Radcliffe, Sherrington, Walsh. D. Wilkinson and T. Wilkinson</p>
11568/21	<p>Erection of 119 no dwellings with associated access, hard and soft landscaping, substation, walls and fences, drainage, open space including ecological mitigation and other associated works on land at Bowlands Hey, Westhoughton (Phase 3 and 4)</p>	<p><b>Refused</b></p> <p><b>The proposed residential development of the application site would represent inappropriate development of 'Other Protected Open Land' and therefore would be contrary to Policy CG6AP of Bolton's Allocations Plan and Policies OA3.3 and OA3.6 of Bolton's Core Strategy.</b></p> <p><b>The proposed development would also have significant local landscape and visual impacts which would not maintain or respect the landscape character of the area, and the proposed design and</b></p>

		<p><b>layout does not constitute good urban design and would impact detrimentally on the area's character and appearance, contrary to policies CG3 and OA3 of Bolton's Core Strategy and guidance detailed in section 12 of the NPPF . Applying the "tilted balance" of paragraph 11 of the National Planning Policy Framework, it is considered that the adverse impacts of the development would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits of the proposed development.</b></p> <p>A motion to refuse the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for refusal of the application (14):</p> <p>Councillors Allen, Finney, Galloway, Hill, Iqbal, Mistry, Morgan, Murray, Peel, Radcliffe, Sherrington, Walsh. D. Wilkinson and T. Wilkinson</p>
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### **37. PLANNING APPEAL DECISIONS**

The Director of Place (Development) submitted a report which informed the Committee of the outcome of various planning appeals between 15<sup>th</sup> February and 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2022

Resolved – That the report be noted.

(The meeting started at 2.00pm and finished at 4.35pm)

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### **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2022

Present – Councillors Walsh (Chairman), Ayub, Connor, Dean, Finney, Grant, Hayes (as deputy for Councillor D. Wilkinson), McKeon, Morgan, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders (as deputy for Councillor T. Wilkinson) and Sherrington.

Councillor Walsh in the Chair.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Allen, McMulkin, Mistry, D. Wilkinson and T. Wilkinson

### **38. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

### **39. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Under the approved delegation arrangements, the Committee considered various planning applications, as set out in the report submitted by the Director of Place (Development), for permission to undertake developments, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act.

Members of the public addressed the Committee in respect of the following applications:

12615/21

13114/22

13040/22

Resolved – That the various planning applications submitted by the Director of Place (Development) be dealt with, as follows:-

<b>Application Number</b>	<b>Proposal and Location</b>	<b>Decision</b>
12615/21	Variation of condition 4 (restrict occupancy to no more than 225 customers shall be within the restaurant at any time) on application 08815/20 at 486 Blackburn Road	<p><b>Deferred for further information.</b></p> <p>A motion to defer the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for deferral of the application (13):</p> <p>Councillors Ayub, Connor, Dean, Finney, Grant, Hayes, McKeon, Morgan, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington and Walsh</p>
12845/21	Construction of earth embankments and alteration of existing earth embankments, realignment of park footways, culverting of 10 metres of Pearl Brook with inlet and outlet headwalls, refurbishment of existing multi-use games area (MUGA) and relocation of	<p><b>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</b></p> <p>A motion to approve the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Councillors voting for approval of the application (13):</p>

	children's play area at Old Station Park, St John Street, Horwich	Councillors Ayub, Connor, Dean, Finney, Grant, Hayes, McKeon, Morgan, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington and Walsh
13040/22	Variation of conditions 2 (coal mining legacy), 3 (tree protection measures), 4 (construction management plan), 7 (car park), 11 (site access), 13 (biodiversity and protected species), 16 (sustainable construction), 17 (electric vehicle charging points), 19 (sustainable urban design strategy) and 21 (approved plans) of planning permission 09471/20 on land south of Freshfield Avenue	<p><b>That the application be referred to the Secretary of State for approval.</b></p> <p>A motion to approve the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Councillors voting for approval of the application (13):</p> <p>Councillors Ayub, Connor, Dean, Finney, Grant, Hayes, McKeon, Morgan, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington and Walsh</p>
13048/22	Variation of condition 26 (approved plans) on application 11534/21 at Old Firwood School site, Firwood Fold, Crompton Way, Bank Top, Bradshaw	<p><b>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</b></p> <p>A motion to approve the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Councillors voting for approval of the application (13):</p>

		Councillors Ayub, Connor, Dean, Finney, Grant, Hayes, McKeon, Morgan, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington and Walsh
13114/22	Reserved matters application pursuant to outline application 10718/21 for the development of a mixed-use scheme comprising up to 120 residential units (use Class C3) and up to 2,200sqm non-residential retail/commercial and community floorspace (use Class E, F1/F2) (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale details) at The Market Precinct, Brackley Street, Farnworth	<p><b>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</b></p> <p>A motion to approve the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Councillors voting for approval of the application (13):</p> <p>Councillors Ayub, Connor, Dean, Finney, Grant, Hayes, McKeon, Morgan, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington and Walsh</p>
13125/22	Erection of a single-storey extension to existing building to accommodate an enlarged fitness suite and new dance studio together with the introduction of new windows to existing fitness suite and new rainscreen cladding to existing building to match the extension. Removal of external	<p><b>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</b></p> <p>A motion to approve the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Councillors voting for approval of the application (13):</p>

	MUGA pitch and reconfiguration of vehicular site entrance and car park at Farnworth Leisure Centre, Brackley Street, Farnworth	Councillors Ayub, Connor, Dean, Finney, Grant, Hayes, McKeon, Morgan, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington and Walsh
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#### **40. PLANNING APPEAL DECISIONS**

The Director of Place (Development) submitted a report which informed the Committee of the outcome of various planning appeals between 15<sup>th</sup> March and 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2022

Resolved – That the report be noted.

#### **41. FIVE YEAR HOUSING LAND POSITION STATEMENT AND HOUSING DELIVERY TEST – APRIL, 2022 POSITION STATEMENT**

The Director of Place (Development) submitted a report which outlined the five-year housing land position and delivery test in Bolton as at April, 2022.

The report provided details of the five-year housing requirement and supply and the delivery test position.

A full list of schemes was provided at Appendix 1 to the report.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

(The meeting started at 2.00pm and finished at 3.30pm)

B14

**NOTES**

**LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION  
COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH, 2022

Present – Councillors Flitcroft (Chairman), Eckersley- Fallon (as deputy for Councillor Dean), Mrs. Fairclough, Galloway, Grant, Khurram and Taylor-Burke.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Dean, Haworth, Jiva and D. Wilkinson.

Councillor Flitcroft, Chairman

**38. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

Resolved – That the minutes of the proceedings of meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 be submitted and signed as a correct record.

**39. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Resolved – That, under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in paragraph 3 (financial and business affairs) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act; and that it be deemed that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in its exemption outweighs the public interest in its disclosure.

**40. APPLICATION FOR A STREET TRADING CONSENT  
LER/05/22**

(Councillor Khurram declared an interest in relation to the following item and left the meeting taking no part in the debate and vote thereon)

## C2

The Director of Place Services submitted a report which set out details of an application which had been received for a street trading consent.

The Committee also viewed footage of the applicant's interaction with another person from the window of his ice-cream van.

The applicant and his solicitor attended the meeting.

It was moved by Councillor Grant and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Fairclough that the street trading consent be refused -

For the Motion, viz –

Councillors Galloway, Taylor-Burke, Mrs. Fairclough, Eckersley-Fallon, Flitcroft and Grant.

Against the Motion, viz –

Nil

Abstain, viz-

Nil

Whereupon the motion was declared carried and it was specifically resolved that -

the application for a street trading consent be refused as the Committee is not satisfied that the applicant is not a suitable person to hold a licence.

The Committee also took account of –

- Footage which shows the applicant making threats to a shopkeeper and brandishing a wheel brace. He also makes threats and uses foul language. This incident took place whilst a young child was present. The Committee were concerned about the serious aggression and the applicant was not in control;



### C3

- The footage also showed that the applicant came close to colliding with a child on a bike as he drive off;
- Information from Greater Manchester Police concerning an allegation from a 17 year old girl that she had gone to get an ice-cream and the applicant had said to her, he would only give her the ice-cream if she showed her boobs or nipple. It is further alleged that the applicant messaged the girl on Facebook asking for her number but she ignored and blocked him. A separate crime of harassment had been created because of this. The applicant denied saying those words to the girl and also denied communication via Facebook but does remember her;
- The applicant, by his own admission, had been trading without Street Trading Consent in 2016 and 2020; and
- The Committee has safeguarding concerns in relation to the applicant.

The Committee's primary duty is of concern for the safety and well-being of the public and the applicant would be working alone with children and vulnerable adults.

There is therefore reasonable cause to refuse to grant the street trading consent.

#### **41. MISCONDUCT BY LICENSED HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER LER/06/22**

The Director of Place Services submitted a report which set out details of alleged misconduct in relation to a driver licensed to drive hackney carriage vehicles.

The driver attended the meeting.

The report set out details of the alleged misconduct.

## C4

It was moved by Councillor Mrs. Fairclough and Seconded by Councillor Flitcroft that the licence to drive hackney carriage vehicles be suspended for a period of two weeks.

### For the Motion, Viz –

Councillors Khurram, Galloway, Taylor-Burke, Mrs. Fairclough, Eckersley-Fallon, Flitcroft and Grant.

### Against the Motion, Viz –

Nil

### Abstain, Viz –

Nil.

Whereupon the motion was declared carried and it was specifically resolved –

That the licence to drive hackney carriages vehicles be suspended for a period of two weeks on the basis that the Committee are not satisfied that the driver is a fit and proper person to hold a licence.

The Committee also took account of the following –

- the conviction for using a motor vehicle on a road / public place without having third party insurance from 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2021, which is a major motoring offence under the Council's Policy. The driver also failed to declare the outstanding prosecution on his renewal application on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2021.

Members of the public, the elderly, infirm and children or vulnerable adults entrust their personal safety and wellbeing to private hire drivers whenever they take a journey.

The Committee's primary duty is of concern for the safety and wellbeing of the public.

There is therefore reasonable cause to suspend the hackney carriage vehicle licence for a period of two weeks.

**42. MISCONDUCT BY LICENSED PRIVATE HIRE  
DRIVER LER/07/22**

The Director of Place Services submitted a report which set out details of alleged misconduct in relation to a driver licensed to drive private hire vehicles.

The driver attended the meeting.

The report set out details of the alleged misconduct.

It was moved by Councillor Khurram and Seconded by Councillor Grant that the licence to drive private hire vehicles be suspended for a period of one week.

For the Motion, Viz –

Councillors Khurram, Galloway, Taylor-Burke, Eckersley-Fallon, Flitcroft and Grant.

Against the Motion, Viz –

Nil

Abstain, Viz –

Nil.

Whereupon the motion was declared carried and it was specifically resolved –

That the licence to drive private hire vehicles be suspended for a period of one week on the basis that the Committee are not satisfied that the driver is a fit and proper person to hold a licence.

The Committee also took account of the following –

- two convictions of exceeding the statutory speed limit on a public road from 26<sup>th</sup> March and 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2021 and the poor driving record; and
- The breaching of the conditions of his licence in respect of the reporting of convictions, despite a previous warning.

Members of the public, the elderly, infirm and children or vulnerable adults entrust their personal safety and wellbeing to private hire drivers whenever they take a journey.

The Committee's primary duty is of concern for the safety and wellbeing of the public.

There is therefore reasonable cause to suspend the private hire vehicle licence for a period of one week.

(The meeting started at 11.30am. and finished at 2.10pm)

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**LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION  
COMMITTEE (ACTING AS LICENSING ACT, 2003  
COMMITTEE OR THE GAMBLING ACT, 2005)**

MEETING, 20<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2022

Present – Councillors Flitcroft (Chairman), Dean, Mrs. Fairclough, Grant, Haworth, Khurram, Mistry and Radcliffe.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Allen, Galloway, Haslam and Taylor-Burke.

## **1. GAMBLING ACT 2005 – REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES**

The Director of Place Services submitted a report which set out proposals to review the Council's Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles.

The report explained that the Council was required to review and publish a Statement of principles, every three years. The most recent Statement was published in 2019.

The report also provided information in respect of the new Greater Manchester Statement of Principles and recommended that the Committee approved the consultation as set out in the report.

Members in their deliberations referred to-

- Crime and disorder and no mention of licensing PC;
- The GM Statement of Principles,
- Engagement with Public Health; and
- Protecting vulnerable adults.

It was moved by Councillor Flitcroft and seconded by Councillor Dean that approval be given to consultation on the Greater Manchester Statement of Principles, as detailed in the report.

For the Motion, viz –

Councillors Haworth, Khurram, Mistry, Dean, Radcliffe, Mrs. Fairclough, Flitcroft and Grant.

Against the Motion, viz –

Nil

C8

Abstain, viz-

Nil

Whereupon the motion was declared carried.

**CORPORATE AND EXTERNAL ISSUES SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 11<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2022

Present – Councillors Silvester (Chairman), Veevers (Vice-Chairman), Haworth (as deputy for Councillor Mistry), Jiva, Peel, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Walsh, Weatherby, Wright and Zaman.

Also in Attendance

Councillor Cox	Leader of the Council
Ms. S. Johnson	Deputy Chief Executive
Mr. L. Fallows	Assistant Director HR
Mr. P. Rimmer	Assistant Director Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services
Ms. H. Gorman	Borough Solicitor
Ms. E. Brook	Assistant Director Strategy and Partnerships
Superintendent Parker	Greater Manchester Police
Ms. L. McKechnie	Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Bolton CVS
Mr. P. Mason	Chairperson, Bolton CVS
Mrs. V. Ridge	Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Connor, Cowen, Dean, Hornby, McMulkin and Mistry.

Councillor Silvester in the Chair

**36. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 were submitted.

Resolved – That the minutes be signed as a correct record.

### **37. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2021/2022**

The Borough Solicitor submitted a report which detailed the work programme for 2021/2022.

Resolved – That the Work Programme for 2021/2022 be noted.

### **38. POLICING - UPDATE**

Superintendent Steph Parker, District Superintendent Bolton Police, provided members with an update on the progress being made by the Police in Bolton.

In terms of the operational objectives members were advised that these were as follows:-

- Protecting the Vulnerable People - this centred around Hate Crime; Domestic Abuse; Child Sexual Exploitation; Child Criminal Exploitation and Violence against Women and Girls;
- Counter the threat of Organised Crime – this looked at Drug Supply and Serious Violent Crime;
- Tackling acquisitive crime – this was a partnership based approach for problem solving and it also aimed to improve outcomes for victims of Neighbourhood Crime and provide stronger, dedicated Neighbourhood Policing Teams; and
- Improving confidence in the Greater Manchester Police – improve response times and improve outcomes, better community connections.

Information in relation to the above objectives and the progress and outcomes were provided at the meeting.

Members were also provided with updates on the following, viz:-

- The reopening of Bolton Custody Suite;
- 3,488 arrests made last year;
- New graded response policy been introduced;



### D3

- Better call handling – average of 4 mins for 101 calls and 20 secs for 999 calls;
- Uplift of student officers due to receive in the region of 59 students and the end of the year;
- Operation Portman - speeding campaign relaunched;
- Operation Rattlesnake – response to serious acquisitive crime;
- Off road bikes massive issue at the moment – launched a campaign today;
- Operation Clamp – response to targeting of taxi drivers;
- Operation Overspill – new response to night time economy;

In summary, members were advised that there were currently approximately 20 different operations ongoing at the moment in Bolton a lot of which were covert. Outcomes have improved and it is now a more proactive police force. Neighbourhood teams were now being reintroduced and were problem solving in their areas and finally there was a plan in place which should result in a difference to the policing in Bolton during the next twelve months.

Members in their discussions made the following comments/observations:-

- Response and solution to drug dealing in neighbourhoods;
- In relation to youth crime the public perception was that the police were being let down by the CPS/court system therefore what interface do the police have with the CPS/court system and how can this be improved;
- Biggest impact on the public is what they see on the streets i.e. street begging and the steps being taken to reassure the public on low level crime;
- Are we still advising the public who have some intelligence to contact crime stoppers;
- The need to increase the visibility of police officers on the streets and within communities;

- Bolton has the highest arrest rate was this a positive or negative position;
- Concern regarding the length of time it takes the police to respond to victims of crime;
- As part of a public consultation exercise a couple of the priorities for the public were speeding and anti-social behaviour, however, these had not been identified as priorities and was this due to a lack of resources and funding;
- Off road bikes in the past were publicly crushed and was effective;
- Mobile cop shops in the past were dropped into neighbourhoods and were very popular and effective;
- In relation to street beggars and aggressive begging whilst the majority of these were not homeless they were vulnerable people and there was a major issue to be tackled in relation to organised crime and gangs;
- Resourcing of Neighbourhood Policing Teams;
- There was no police attendance at Horwich Police Station during the night would this change in the future; and
- Attacks on taxi vehicles is it just taxi drivers being attacked and if so what were the contributing factors and was there a racial pattern in those attacks.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted and that Superintendent Steph Parker be thanked for the very informative presentation.

### **39. BOLTON CVS AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR - UPDATE**

Ms. L. McKechnie, Deputy Chief Executive Officer Bolton CVS, gave a presentation to members which gave an update on the work being undertaken by Bolton CVS in terms of where we've been; where we are; and where we're going.

Information was provided in relation to the following areas, viz:-

- The change in leadership;
- There were 1,672 VCSE groups in Bolton;
- 11% identified as social enterprises;

- 11,322 people were employed in Bolton non-profit organisations;
- 58,259 volunteers giving;
- 211,233 hours per week;
- £119.4m was the income of the VCSE sector;
- Bolton's Fund which had twelve rounds of funding in 2021-2022 the total value of which was £918,266.72;
- Developing the Grants and Investments Team;
- Bolton's Fund Co-Design Group;
- Establishing the Economic and Social Value Team;
- The Integrated Care Partnership Proposal;
- Greater Manchester VCSE Accord; and
- Exploring a VCSE Digital Development Fund with BWitC and Lightful

Following the presentation, members made the following comments/observations:-

- Concerns regarding the new policy for area working and the stipulation that 50% of the area working budget had to be matched funded in terms of volunteer hours.
- The geographical gaps and subject area gaps within the Borough and need for a mapping exercise to be undertaken to show the gaps in provision and subject area and then provide more investment to allow building more capacity into the voluntary sector;
- Would have liked further information on the operation of the CVS and its finances in depth and in particular on how success was measured; how applications were evaluated and assessed; how did you get feedback from community groups who had received funding; and how do you measure the success of investment;
- There were a huge number of volunteers in Bolton, however, was there any evidence to indicate where there were possible gaps in the lack of volunteers in particular areas within the Borough; and
- Reference to the 11% increase in social enterprise and how much of this was Community Interest Companies and if notable do you link in with Business Bolton.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted and thanks be conveyed to officers for the presentation.

#### **40. HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND**

Mr. P. Rimmer, Assistant Director Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services gave a presentation which updated members on the progress made with regards to the Household Support Fund.

Members were reminded that the Household Support Fund was announced by the Department for Works and Pension in October, 2021 and final guidance was issued on 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2021. Bolton had been awarded £2,780 million and spend had to be committed by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022.

Information was provided in relation to the following, viz:-

- Details of the guidance which was received;
- The approach Bolton had taken;
- The outcomes in relation to free school meal support;
- The outcomes in relation to the local welfare provision;
- Bolton's Fund Community Groups;
- Bolton's Fund Outcomes;
- Money skills;
- Care and Repair Service; and
- The Household Support Fund for 2022/2023.

In terms of the Household Support Fund for 2022/2023, members were advised that draft guidance had been released on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2022 and the final guidance was expected after 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2022. Bolton would receive a grant award of £2,780m for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 and a third of this must be awarded to pensioners and a third must be awarded to families with children.

Members in their discussions made the following comments/observations:-

- The list of household items highlighted the financial support for some good things, however, with the new

allocation would the Council be able to provide financial support for items which could bring down heating bills;

- Not enough pensioners apply for pension credit which they were entitled to therefore would there be scope as part of the household support fund to assist pensioners in claiming what they were entitled to;
- Thanks to officers for the robust approach taken when administering with the fund; and
- Comparisons and discussions with other Greater Manchester Authorities taking place on how to administer the second Household Support Fund.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted and thanks be conveyed to the officer team for all their hard work.

#### **41. WORKFORCE DATA REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

Mr. L. Fallows, Assistant Director HR, gave a presentation to members which outlined the workforce data reporting requirements.

Members were advised that in 2015 the Local Government Transparency Code was updated and placed extra reporting responsibilities on local government. It also outlined the minimum requirements for local authorities to publish open data for re-use and in a timely fashion.

It was stated that the Code was issued to meet the Government's desire to place more power into citizens' hands to increase democratic accountability and make it easier for local people to contribute to the local decision making process and help shape public services. Furthermore, transparency was the foundation of local accountability and the key that gave people the tools and information they needed to enable them to play a bigger role in society.

Information was also provided in relation to the following:-

- The required data sets;

- An organisation chart covering staff in the top three levels of the organisation;
- Information on Trade Union facility time;
- Senior salaries;
- Pay multiples; and
- Where the information could be found.

In conclusion, members were also advised that from April, 2017, all organisations that employed over 250 employees were required by law to report annually on their gender pay gap under The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted and thanks to Mr. L. Fallows for his presentation.

#### **42. GREATER MANCHESTER PENSION FUND - UPDATE**

The Chairman advised members that, as requested at the last meeting, he had written to the Greater Manchester Pension Fund and a response from the Greater Manchester Pension Fund had been received this morning and circulated to members which he summarised at the meeting.

Members expressed their disappointment in the response received and the fact that representatives were not prepared to attend a meeting of this Committee.

Resolved – That the position be noted.

#### **43. MEMBERS BUSINESS**

The Committee received the extracts of minutes of other meetings of the Council relevant to the remit of this Committee:-

- (a) The Cabinet held on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2022;
- (b) The Executive Cabinet Member Leader's Portfolio held on 8<sup>th</sup> February and 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2022; and
- (c) The Executive Cabinet Member Stronger Communities Portfolio held on 8<sup>th</sup> February and 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.

Resolved – That the minutes of the various meetings be noted.

#### **44. VOTE OF THANKS**

Members of the Committee conveyed their thanks to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the way in which they had conducted the meetings throughout the Municipal Year.

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 8.00 p.m.)

D10

**NOTES**



## **HEALTH OVERVIEW AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 30<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2022

Present – Councillors Khurram (Chairman), T. Wilkinson (Vice-Chairman), Challender, Eckersley-Fallon, Grant, Hartigan, Haworth, Pattison, Radcliffe, Rimmer and Sherrington.

### Lay Members

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Ms. F. Hill (as deputy for Ms. B. Gallagher) | - Bolton and District Pensioners Association |
| Ms. S. Hilton                                | - Age UK                                     |

### Also in attendance

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Councillor Baines | - Executive Cabinet Member for Wellbeing           |
| Dr. H. Lowey      | - Director of Public Health                        |
| Mr. P. Lee        | - Director of Operations, Social Care and Health   |
| Ms. T. Minshull   | - Assistant Director Commissioning and Integration |
| Ms. A. Fallon     | - Consultant in Public Health                      |
| Dr. A. Seabourne  | - Greater Manchester Mental Health Trust           |
| Ms. J. Street     | - Bolton NHS Foundation Trust                      |
| Mrs. V. Ridge     | - Democratic Services Manager                      |

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Fletcher, Ibrahim, McMulkin and Taylor-Burke and Councillor Morgan, Executive Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Fiona Noden, Bolton FT, Ms. B. Gallagher, Bolton and District Pensioners Association, Ms. S. Long, Bolton CCG and Dr Ratnarajah (Chair Bolton CCG).

Councillor Khurram in the Chair.

## **27. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2022 were submitted.

Further to minute 25 of the previous meeting, Ms. F. Hill, Bolton and District Pensioners Association, enquired as to whether details of the employment statistics regarding those with learning disabilities working for the Council and the NHS had been made available.

Ms. T. Minshull, Assistant Director Commissioning and Integration advised that the current HR system did not allow for officers to be able to aggregate this information. However, officers were currently looking to make changes with system IT teams to allow for this and a further update had been requested on the progress being made.

Resolved – That the minutes be agreed and signed as a correct record.

## **28. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME, 2021/22**

The Committee received a report which set out details of the updated work programme.

Resolved – That the updated work programme be noted.

## **29. SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH A DIAGNOSIS OF DEMENTIA IN BOLTON**

Dr. A. Seabourne, Greater Manchester Mental Health Trust, gave a presentation and submitted a paper which summarised the pathways diagnosis and post diagnostic support provided by the Greater Manchester Mental Health Trust within the Memory Clinic and within the Bolton Dementia Support Services.

Members were advised that timely sensitive detection, assessment, diagnosis and support for people with dementia and their families/carers was quite rightly a key priority for health and social care in the UK. In terms of diagnosis information was provided in relation to the following, viz:-

- Pathways into diagnosis;
- Recognition that there might be a problem with memory;
- Referral from primary to secondary care for diagnostic assessment; and
- Diagnosis in the Memory Clinic.

In terms of support after diagnosis, the report outlined the support provided by the Greater Manchester Health Memory Clinic in the immediate period post diagnosis and access to these was based on individual/family/carer need.

Members were also advised that Bolton Dementia Support aimed to provide recovery orientated activities and interventions to people living with dementia and their carers and supporters to provide high quality activity and support groups to maintain skills and hobbies and maintain wellbeing, as well as providing signposting education and support. It was also stated that Bolton Dementia Support volunteers were trained in dementia awareness, safeguarding, first aid, stimulation therapy, dance and activities for people living with dementia. The services which they offered were detailed in the paper.

It was also explained that there were many VCSE organisations who could provide evidence based information for individuals/families/carers to help them post diagnosis. Furthermore, Greater Manchester Mental Health had a Dementia Research Unit as one of the trust 10 research units and people who were in contact with Greater Manchester Mental Health services would be encouraged to take part in appropriate studies if they had expressed an interest in being involved.

Members in their discussions made the following comments/observations:-

- How to address the situation where somebody might be suspected of having dementia but were reluctant to access the services;
- Really pleased that this has now be included in training programmes for all NHS staff;
- Issues around dementia being diagnosed on young people and were there things in place to ensure that this was undertaken at an early stage and also areas around misdiagnosis of dementia due to other underlying medical conditions;
- The use of IT platforms such as Zoom had proven beneficial during Covid 19 and, therefore, was there still a place for it or was it better with face to face interaction;
- The risk of harming others such as family members;
- The referral process for diagnosing dementia and the issues associated with getting access to GP's and appointments;
- Request for figures on referrals from GP's on dementia pre-covid and post-covid; and
- Recognition of the role of the voluntary sector and a new service called Empowered Carers was due to be launched in April, 20221 working to support carers of people living with dementia and details of this would be emailed to members.

Resolved – That Dr. Alice Seabourne be thanked for her detailed and informative presentation and that figures on referrals from GP's on dementia both pre-covid and post-covid be provided to members of the Committee.

**30. THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020/2021 – THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF BOLTON RESIDENTS**

The Director of Public Health submitted a report which informed members of the content of The Director of Public Health's Annual Report 2020/2021: The impact of COVID-19 on the health and wellbeing of Bolton residents.

Members were reminded that The Health and Social Care Act (2012) set out the requirements for Directors of Public Health in England to produce an annual report on the health and wellbeing of their population and for the local authority to publish this. Consequently, this year's report had specifically looked at the impact of Covid-19 for the health and wellbeing of Bolton's residents; from the virus itself as well as the impact of measures necessary to contain the spread of the virus.

It was stated that using knowledge built from a range of sources, the Director of Public Health's Annual Report (PHAR) for 2020/2021 considered infections, hospitalisations and deaths from Covid-19 along with the vaccine uptake and the underlying inequalities and wider determinants that had influenced the extent and variation in the impact of the pandemic for Bolton's residents and communities.

Members were advised that recommendations were included in the PHAR to address the longer term impacts of the pandemic and included ongoing monitoring of the report to use the data to inform future preventative work and strategy development. In addition, learning would also be taken from effective preventative work that had been carried out to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 which would not only inform the activities of the public health team in Bolton but would also be adaptable on a broader scale across the council and partners.

A copy of the Director of Public Health's Annual Report 2020/2021: The impact of COVID-19 on the health and wellbeing of Bolton residents was appended to the report.

Members in their discussions made the following comments/observations:-

- The current landscape with Covid-19 and had there been improvements;
- How accurate would the data be now there were less restrictions;
- Concern regarding appointments being cancelled for primary/secondary care how this had affected people and impact on life expectancy;

- The work planned to tackle inequalities;
- Concern regarding getting appointments with GP's and how can this be resolved; and
- An acknowledgement of the work undertaken by all services/agencies, workers and volunteers throughout the pandemic.

Resolved – That the content and recommendations of the Director of Public Health's Annual Report 2020/2021: The impact of COVID-19 on the health and wellbeing of Bolton residents be noted.

### **31. SUICIDE AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

Ms. A. Fallon, Consultant in Public Health, submitted a copy of the Suicide Audit Annual Report for 2021.

Members were advised that the purpose of the report was to understand Bolton's current position regarding suicides, comparing rates to other places and local trends and to use the findings of the suicide audit to support co-ordinated multi-agency action on suicide prevention.

Information was provided in relation to the following areas, viz:-

- Background: why suicide prevention;
- Introduction;
- Official suicide statistics;
- Suicide in Bolton: insight from local suicide audit data;
- The audit;
- Age, gender, ethnicity and sexuality;
- Method of suicide;
- Location;
- Socioeconomic deprivation;
- Geography: the influence of deprivation;
- Children and young people;
- Contributing factors to suicide;
- Living status;
- Employment status;
- Mental health;

- Primary care contact;
- Secondary care mental health services;
- Drug and alcohol problems;
- Reporting of crime and violence;
- Trigger events;
- Serious untoward incidents; and
- Recommendations.

In terms of the recommendations, these were identified as follows, viz:-

- Undertake a multi-agency codesign workshop with key stakeholders and local residents to identify key priority actions based on evidence, audit findings and local experiences;
- Develop a suicide prevention strategy/action plan based on the findings of the codesign workshop, aligned to the population mental wellbeing and suicide prevention programme;
- Disseminate the strategy/action plan and ways in which wider stakeholders could get involved in preventing suicides;
- Monitor and evaluate key actions; and
- Undertake an annual suicide audit for 2021/2022, including a refresh of the strategy/action plan.

Members in their discussions made the following comments/observations:-

- One of the causes of suicide which was gambling addiction seemed to heighten during the pandemic, however, there was no details of this in the statistical information which had been provided;
- The driving factors which contributed to people taking their own life in particular young people;
- Was bullying via social media factor being addressed, in particular within schools;
- The breakdown between males and females who committed suicide and their respective ages;

- Concern that there could be a potential increase in suicide rates due to the national economic situation;
- It was acknowledged that there were good services within the community in providing support;
- 40% of people who had attended primary care services weeks before they committed suicide needed to be looked at by primary care colleagues and the issues associated with it;
- The difficulties accessing appointments for mental health services;
- Access to primary care to be included in a future work programme;
- Training and awareness of how to have conversations with people and had front facing staff within the Council had basic suicidal training awareness and mental health first aid training;
- The need to engage with community groups and the support being given/available to these small community groups;
- The potential for the increase in suicide rates in deprived areas due to the cost of living rises and the need for targeted resources in these areas; and
- Children and young people referrals to CAHMS and other agencies was a bit of a lottery in terms of long waiting times and accessing these services and were there any plans in place to improve this.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted and that an item on accessing primary care services be included in the work programme for 2022/2023.

## **32. MEMBERS BUSINESS**

The Committee considered three members questions and their answers which had been submitted in accordance with Standing Order 36, viz –

The following questions were submitted by Bernie Gallagher, Lay Member in accordance with Standing Order 36 and the



responses were prepared by Rachel Tanner, Managing Director Integrated Care Partnership.

**Q1.**

Question on Four areas of defined need

1. When did Bolton Council cease to use the four areas of defined need: Critical, Substantial, Moderate & Low and how many people are now denied access to adult social care as a result?

**A.**

Bolton Council previously under the 'Fair Access to Care' guidance set its threshold for services against the levels 'Critical and Substantial', it was for each Council to set its eligibility against the national guidance of four levels 'Low, Moderate, Substantial and Critical' the majority of Councils including Bolton placed its threshold at the Substantial level but used discretion from a prevention perspective to meet moderate or low needs.

Legislation changed in 2014 where a national eligibility threshold was introduced in law, this came into force with the inception of the Act in April 2015. The Care Act eligibility threshold was pitched in line with the previous guidance at the levels Bolton was operating, therefore little change in this respect came in to force. However, to meet prevention duties as outlined in the Care Act Bolton implemented an Early Intervention Team as the front door to social care that focusses on offering advice, information and signposting to people presenting with lower-level needs than the national eligibility. We encourage access to universal, community and voluntary services where appropriate.

Adult Social Care operates in line with the 2015 Care and Support Eligibility regulations. There has been no change to thresholds.

The number of service users supported with a long-term service in 2014/15 was 4,845. By 2019/20 this had increased to 6,010. Due to the impact of the pandemic the number decreased to 5,871 in 2020/21 but we expect to see this number increase as services move more into 'business as usual' post the pandemic.

**Q2.**

Question – Reduction of Support

How many people have Bolton Council had to reduce support for due to financial reasons?

**A.**

Each service user is reviewed annually and any reduction (or increase) in care is determined by need. All service users are subject to a financial assessment that is dictated by a national formula and may have to make contributions based on their financial circumstances.

It is important to note that eligible need is the overarching consideration and if any service user is experiencing severe financial hardship, we would consider individual circumstances.

The following questions were submitted by Councillor Haworth in accordance with Standing Order 36 and the responses were prepared by Rachel Tanner, Managing Director Integrated Care Partnership.

**Q3.**

Question – Sunnyside Residential Home

Sunnyside Residential Home in Bolton offered and provided accommodation for persons who require nursing or personal care, may have dementia, and cared for adults over 65 years of age. It was listed as 'overall inadequate' on the Care Quality Commission public website after a number of assessments carried out by the CQC.

What was the council's role since the inadequate assessment scores were published?

**A.**

Adult Social Care have a range of statutory duties regarding the oversight of quality and safeguarding regarding the market, this includes provider failure. The below response provides an insight into the range of activities that the department took in partnership with other public services to ensure the issues were monitored, residents safeguarded and where required the management of a safe closure of a care home.

When the Council were notified of the CQC inspection findings, we:

- Suspended all new placements to the care home.
- Immediately established multi-agency task and finish group to coordinate the response:
  - Members included: Quality Assurance and Commissioning, Infection Control, NHS Bolton CCG, Bolton Council Care Management and, Safeguarding Team's, CQC, and BFT Care Home Pharmacy Team.
- We undertook regular monitoring and improvement work with the provider against the required action plan from the CQC inspection.
- Council undertook our own contract inspection of the home, which helped clarify the action plan.
- Regular meetings with operator and registered manager of Sunnyside.
- Ensured weekly site visits / presence by a member of the multi-agency team (Even through height of the pandemic)
- Assessment of residents needs carried out by care management
- was developed at an early stage to ensure contingency plans were able to be mobilise quickly.
- Wrote to all residents / next of kin about the suspension.

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- Following subsequent Inadequate rating, met with CQC Area manager and Lead Inspector to discuss approach.
- Prior to information becoming public, once we knew the home was to close. We established a further multi-agency task and finish group, which met several times per week, and whose role was to ensure the safe and timely transfer of all residents.
- All residents were safely transferred to other care facilities in advance of the closure of the home with the full engagement and support of residents, families, advocates and the staff from the home.

### Q4.

#### Question – Inadequate Assessment Scores by the CQC

Should other adult care facilities in the Borough receive inadequate assessment scores by the CQC, or any other body, what role and actions does the council have in ensuring safer and more adequate provision of adult care in the Borough?

### A.

- The council has many legal responsibilities to protect service users, manage the care market, and ensure quality of care, including having a robust provider failure protocol.
- Our approach, to any other provider being rated Inadequate by CQC, would be very similar to our response outlined above but would be bespoke dependant on the issues pertaining to the situation.
- Please note, where care is provided by a provider who is not commissioned by the council, this interaction may be more difficult as we won't have contractual relationship. Therefore, approach may be via our safeguarding responsibilities.

The Committee also received the extracts of minutes of other meetings of the Council relevant to the remit of this Committee:-

- (a) Executive Cabinet Member Wellbeing held on 7<sup>th</sup> February and 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.
- (b) Executive Cabinet Member Adult Social Care held on 7<sup>th</sup> February and 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2022.

Resolved – (i) That the members questions be noted.

(ii) That the minutes of the meeting be noted.

### **33. VOTE OF THANKS**

The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, thanked all members for their participation together with officers and partners during this Municipal Year.

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 8.00 p.m.)

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**NOTES**

## **PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 13<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2022

Present – Councillors Bagnall (Chairman), Weatherby (Vice-Chairman), Ayub, Finney, Grant, Heslop, Hill, McKeon, Peel, Sherrington, Walsh and Zaman.

### Also in Attendance

Councillor Mrs. Fairclough	Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader
Councillor Haslam	Executive Cabinet Member Highways and Transport
Councillor Muslim	Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Services Delivery
Councillor Hewitt	Executive Cabinet Member Strategic Housing and Planning
Councillor Warren	Executive Cabinet Member Regeneration
Mr. G. Brough	Director of Place Development
Mr. J. Dyson	Director of Place Services
Mr. D. Cross	Head of Asset Management (Interim)
Mr. J. Lord	Bolton at Home Group CEO
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	Deputy Democratic Services Manager

(Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors D. Wilkinson, Hartigan and Eckersley- Fallon)

Councillor Bagnall in the Chair.

## **32. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Place Scrutiny Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 were submitted.

Resolved – That the minutes be agreed and signed as a correct record.

### **33. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee received a report which set out details of the updated Committee work programme

Resolved – That the work programme be approved.

### **34. BOLTON AT HOME MONITORING REPORT**

Mr. Jon Lord, Bolton at Home Group CEO referred to the previously circulated monitoring briefing note.

This set out information in relation to the following, viz-

- Resident and community engagement strategy;
- Rent increase;
- Support with household finances;
- Repairs backlog update;
- Stock condition survey;
- Capital investment programme;
- Development update;
- Refinancing;
- Performance headlines;;
- ESG report – UN sustainable goals;
- Climate change strategy; and
- Greenworks.

Members in their deliberations referred to –

- Borrowing up to £160M, debt ratios on properties and the chance of grants;
- The building and running of social housing;
- A tribute to Bolton at Home in terms of the additional work it does;
- Estate walk abouts;
- Properties regarding low value in terms of their condition;
- Properties that were updates 30 years ago and the position now;
- Retro fits in terms of heat pumps and water tanks;



- Sub-contracting staff; and
- Challenges regarding the cost of living and paying rent.

Resolved – That Mr. Jon. Lord be thanked for providing the update to members and fielding a number of questions.

### **35. ASSET MANAGEMENT AND ESTATE OPTIMISATION**

Mr. Damien Cross, Head of Asset Management (Interim) gave a presentation on asset management and estate optimisation matters.

He explained that the Council owned 1768 land and buildings of which there were 569 buildings. Also included were 256 investment properties, 126 educational assets, 8 community assets and 179 operational assets.

374 buildings were managed via Robertson Facilities Management and 195 buildings / structures had some PPM, leased out and self repair / insure. Also outlined was what the service included.

In terms of spending, members were advised that reactive repair spending in 2019/20 was £1.67m and in 2021/22 £916k. Also referred to was the spending on planned preventative maintenance, capital projects, decarbonisation and backlog maintenance.

The meeting was also informed of the various challenges presented in the asset management plan. Members were also apprised of details of the green agenda and what had happened so far and what still needed to be done.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- Some of the good achievements in terms of the EPC;
- Challenges regarding decarbonisation;
- The number of staff in the Town Hall;
- Community asset transfers including vacant land;
- Robertsons – staff turnover and leases;
- Disposal of land in Kearsley; and

- Renting out of rooms in the civic side and the need to look at the acoustics.

Resolved- That Mr Cross be thanked for his detailed and informative presentation and that the position be noted.

### **36. POST COVID 19 DELIVERY AND PERFORMANCE OF TRADED SERVICES**

This item was withdrawn.

### **37. MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

**The minutes of various meetings relevant to the remit of this Committee were also submitted, viz –**

- Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader held on 14<sup>th</sup> February and 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2022;
- Executive Cabinet Member Highways and Transport held on 14<sup>th</sup> February and 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2022;
- Executive Cabinet Member Regeneration held on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 14<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> February and 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2022;
- Executive Cabinet Member Strategic Housing and Planning held on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2022; and
- Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Services Delivery held on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.

Resolved – That the position be noted.

### **38. RETIRING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**

Members of the Committee paid tribute to Councillor Bagnall for the way he had managed the Committee during the Municipal Year. They also wished him all the best for the future as he was standing down as a Councillor at the forth coming elections.

(The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 7.45pm)

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2022

Present – Councillors Grant (Vice-Chairman), Connor, Donaghy, Finney, Hornby, McGeown, McKeon (as deputy for Councillor Iqbal), Murray, Peel, Rimmer and Taylor-Burke

Co-opted Members

None in attendance

Also in attendance

Councillor Galloway	-	Executive Cabinet Member – Children's Services
Ms B. Brown	-	Director of Children's Services
Mr I. Walker	-	Assistant Director – Children's Social Care and Early Help
Ms J. Gibson	-	Team Leader – Leaving Care Service
Mrs V. Ridge	-	Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Fletcher, Hill, Iqbal (Chairman), Pattison and Sanders and from Reverend Canon Dr Bracegirdle – Church of England Diocese Representative

Councillor Grant in the Chair.

**27. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Resolved - The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee held on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2022 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

## **28. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22**

The Borough Solicitor submitted the Committee Work Programme for 2021/22.

Resolved – That the 2021/22 Committee Work Programme be noted.

## **29. BOLTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP**

Ms Brown gave a presentation on the role and function of the Bolton Safeguarding Children Partnership.

The Committee was advised that in 2019, revised safeguarding arrangements were introduced nationally and Bolton made the transition from the Safeguarding Board to a new partnership arrangement with Bolton CCG and Greater Manchester Police.

The three partners had a shared and equal duty to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Bolton across the following six key areas:

- set out local thresholds and multi-agency safeguarding processes;
- promote a co-ordinated and joined up approach to keeping children safe across the continuum of need, covering a range of issues;
- safeguarding arrangements that created a system where organisations, agencies and the statutory partners challenged appropriately and held one another to account effectively;
- identify and respond to new or emerging safeguarding issues, as well as tackle the 'stubborn' safeguarding challenges
- undertake effective rapid review and child safeguarding practice review processes to learn from serious child safeguarding incidents - where learning was identified, it was promoted and embedded into practice; and

### G3

- have a robust system of independent scrutiny which should be objective, act as a constructive critical friend and promote reflection to drive continuous improvement.

Comprehensive Safeguarding guidance had been issued involving:

- redevelopment and launch of partnership threshold document – Framework for Action;
- active contribution to Greater Manchester Safeguarding Procedures;
- challenge and Escalation Local Process Launching in Spring 2022; and
- Bolton Neglect Toolkit.

The presentation outlined the arrangements in place for a skilled and knowledgeable workforce:

- the partnership provided a comprehensive safeguarding children training offer;
- in the current year 35 training events were delivered to 961 practitioners;
- introduced new training methods to make best use of technology and respond to restriction of Covid; Network Bites and Knowledge Nuggets;
- evaluations of the training offer were consistently good; and
- developing the offer to strengthen knowledge on familial sexual abuse, social media and serious youth violence.

The presentation went on to outline the culture of learning and development and highlighted the following;

- 2018 – a change from Serious Case Reviews to Rapid Review and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews;
- Serious Child Safeguarding Cases – ‘a child has been seriously harmed or died and abuse or neglect is suspected or known to be a factor’;
- 2018-2022 – 13 Rapid Reviews completed in Bolton that led to 2 Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews; and

- engaged over 120 practitioners in the review process and benefited from their practice knowledge to identify learning and improvement areas.

Ms Brown advised that statutory guidance had changed in 2018 and removed Serious Case Reviews and replacing them with a new two stage review process whereby serious child safeguarding incidents were assessed via a rapid review (completed within 15 working days), before deciding whether a Child safeguarding Practice Review was needed.

The purpose of the Rapid Review was to gather the facts about the case, discuss whether there was any immediate action needed to ensure children's safety, share any learning appropriately, consider the potential for identifying improvements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and decide what steps should be taken next, including whether to undertake a child safeguarding practice review.

In response, Children's Services had adapted local processes and created a consistent model to carry out Rapid Reviews in a timely manner. Once completed Rapid Reviews would be submitted to the National Children's Safeguarding Review Panel for further scrutiny.

Feedback to Bolton from the National Panel about the quality of Bolton's reports had been positive. Examples included:

- 'Your thorough and thoughtful rapid review which did a good job of identifying a complex history of substance misuse and domestic violence'; and
- 'We thought your rapid reviews were thorough with clear actions and learning identified. We agreed with your decision not to initiate a local child safeguarding practice review'

It was noted that carrying out reviews within the timescale could be challenging due to the capacity of the BSCP team, and where more than one review was taking place at the same time.

Through the review work, several consistent themes had been identified, some of which were 'stubborn challenges'.

Ms Brown went on to advise that one of the key projects taken forward had been strengthening information sharing. Local and national reviews had identified that gaps in practitioners' knowledge in when, how and what information to share in a timely manner had led to children not being safeguarded.

Practitioner worries about the Data Protection Act and GDPR had eroded confidence and created anxiety. Having worked with Information Governance leads in the Authority and CCG, the Partnership would be launching in the summer with, practical guidance and training workshops about safeguarding children and information sharing, using real examples to discuss and highlight the lawful bases under which information can be shared. This aimed to give confidence to the multi-agency workforce and ensure that at all levels of our threshold document, information was shared well to keep children safe.

In relation to scrutiny and challenge, the presentation advised that Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 required the Safeguarding Partners to set out their plans for assurance and independent scrutiny, the aim being to provide an impartial assessment of the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area. The Bolton Safeguarding Children Partnership Quality Assurance Framework provided an overview of the purpose, processes and tools used by the statutory partners to understand and evaluate the impact of local arrangements to keep children safe.

Whilst each individual agency had its own responsibilities to monitor and manage its own performance, it was important that this learning was shared, which would enable the statutory partners to be assured that individual organisations were discharging their duties effectively and to enable early identification of cross-cutting themes or emerging risks to children.

All services and organisations working directly or indirectly with children would be expected to contribute to partnership assurance activity where required.

While a range of methodologies had been identified to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements, one of the most powerful was the work ongoing with young people to identify and respond to their safeguarding challenges. Most recently, tabletop discussions had been held on the theme of young people feeling safe in Bolton which offered challenge to local leader and enabled work with young people to create effective solutions.

The presentation concluded with a comprehensive table of actions that the Partnership was undertaking in response to learning.

Following the presentation, members made a number of comments/observations:

- early intervention was the key;
- concern at the lack of additional funding if further needs were identified beyond the original budget;
- the role and responsibilities of partner agencies;
- concern that practitioners did not always feel confident in raising a challenge – Ms Brown assured members that these areas had been addressed in various training sessions and the procedures across all agencies made it clear on how to report concerns;
- the comprehensive training and support given by the Authority to social workers provided an incentive for them to stay with Bolton despite other authorities offering better financial gains; and
- the possibility of including young people on the Scrutiny Committee to gain their experiences.

Resolved – That Ms Brown be thanked for her informative presentation.



### **30. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND CARE LEAVERS – A REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE AND OUTCOMES**

Mr I. Walker gave a presentation on Looked after Children and care leavers and provided a review of performance and outcomes.

The presentation provided details of demand management and its impact on Looked after Children (LAC) and care leavers.

Members were informed that better permanence planning had been endorsed in Ofsted focused visit. Key points included:

- 106 discharges from care in past 6 months
- 10 adopted
- 29 SGOs
- 53 returned to birth or extended family
- 8 moved to independence
- 6 other

In relation to LAC, average caseloads had reduced from 28 to 22 over the past 12 months however:

- some outliers persisted of 28-32 such as in the Leaving Care Teams;
- Bolton still had the highest caseloads in Greater Manchester where the average was 18; and
- high caseloads impacted on quality of work and social worker retention

The impact of demand management strategy on LAC numbers:

- 2018/19 = 649, 2019/20 = 630, 2020/21 = 617, 2021/22 = 535;
- no equivalent reduction in expenditure as over the past five years the average placement cost in the NW had risen by 26% (increased demand);
- 52% boys and 48% were girls; and
- Ethnic background - white – 80%, mixed heritage – 7%, Asian/Asian British – 5%, Black/Black British – 6%, other – 2%.

Less than 1% of LAC were unaccompanied children.

With regard to placement types:

- 312 foster placements (62 in IFAs);
- 70 family and friends foster placements - planned permanence;
- 43 in children's homes (32 with private providers);
- 48 placement with parents - planned discharge;
- 27 in semi-independent accommodation;
- 23 placed for adoption;
- 5 fostering for adoption placement;
- 5 in residential schools; and
- 2 in NHS (mental health)

With regard to general performance, the presentation advised that:

- despite Covid, 89% of LAC had a health check and 47% a dental check in previous 12 months (rising trend);
- despite the drive for permanence 75% of LAC have been in the same placement for 2 plus years;
- LCT supporting 297 care leavers plus approximately 45 21-25 year olds;
- 95% plus of care leavers remained in touch with their Personal Advisor (a voluntary commitment dependent on the quality of support);
- 96% of care leavers in suitable accommodation (hospital, insecure tenancies, custody);
- only 70% of 17-18 year old and 56% of 19-21 year olds are EET;
- what the role of the family firm was; and
- more work placement, apprenticeship employment opportunities.

The presentation went on to outline the following areas for development:

- recruitment of experienced social workers was a challenge;

- placement sufficiency – 62 IFAs and 32 out of area residential placements and increasingly hard to place young people due to national pressures;
- development of a Transitions Panel to improve the quality of support for those needing Adult Services interventions
- implementation of Family Group Conferencing and Life Long Links to reduce admissions, increase returns home and support better placement stability; and
- better multi-agency planning for young people being discharged from MH hospital settings.

Details of financing were provided, as follows:

- LAC unit cost (per 0-17 of the population) - Bolton = £421 and NW average = £561;
- Safeguarding unit cost - Bolton = £117 and NW average = £204; and
- Total Social Care cost - Bolton = £747 and NW average = £991.

Out of the 22 local authorities in the North West, Bolton had the fourth lowest growth in spend over the past five years at 17.5% compared to the average of 36.2% at a time of significant increased demand for service. Performance remained strong if vulnerable.

With regard to outcomes:

- children were at the forefront of both strategic planning and frontline practice - leaders and managers adapted to new working conditions quickly and maintained regular informative communication with the workforce and continued to improve practice through a variety of online and face-to-face learning - social workers report feeling supported and safe working in Bolton. (Ofsted 2021);
- one short breaks provision rated 'Outstanding' and one rated 'Good';
- two adolescent provision rated 'Good' and one rated 'Requires Improvement' but this was due to commitment to a particular young person;
- Preparation for Independence;

- Bolton Homes Project;
- Fostering Recruitment; and
- Voice4U (LAC Participation) help service improvement and design.

Ms J. Gibson attended the meeting and provided details of a Care Leaver case study.

Following the presentation, members made the undermentioned comments/observations:

- the high case load in Bolton;
- the need for additional social workers;
- the positive comments from Ofsted;
- the ongoing support given to family carers;
- the commitment of foster carers and staff to Bolton which helped with retention;
- the appointment of LAC into apprenticeship roles within the Council Departments as part of the corporate parenting responsibilities;
- the impact of Covid on LAC; and
- the ongoing care received by Bolton LAC who may have been moved out of Borough.

Resolved – That Mr Walker and Ms Gibson be thanked for their informative presentation.

### **31. MEMBERS BUSINESS**

The Committee received the minutes of other meetings of the Council relevant to the remit of this Committee:-

- Executive Cabinet Member for Children's Services held on 7<sup>th</sup> February and 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.

(The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 7.40pm)