



To: All Members of the Protecting the Most Vulnerable Policy Committee

Professor Steven Broomhead
Chief Executive
Town Hall
Sankey Street
Warrington
WA1 1UH

Councillors:
Chair – M Smith
Deputy Chair – M Creaghan

K Buckley, H Cooksey, R Knowles, S Krizanac, K Morris,
R Purnell, G Welborn

Protecting the Most Vulnerable Policy Committee

Date: Tuesday, 21 June 2016
Time: 18:30
Venue: Tea Room, Town Hall, Sankey Street, Warrington, WA1 1UH

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AGENDA

Part 1

Items during the consideration of which the meeting is expected to be open to members of the public (including the press) subject to any statutory right of exclusion.

1 Apologies

To record any apologies received.

2 Code of Conduct - Declarations of Interest

Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulation 2012

Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when the item is reached.

3 Minutes

3 - 10

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 5 April 2016 as a correct record.

4 Workshop to Set the Committee's Work Programme for the 2016/17 Municipal Year 11 - 18

To consider a report on behalf of Matt Smith, Chair of the Committee, on the Work Programme 2016/17 and to participate in a workshop.

Part 2

Items of a “confidential or other special nature” during which it is likely that the meeting will not be open to the public and press as there would be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in Section 100I of the Local Government Act 1972.

Nil.

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**PROTECTING THE MOST VULNERABLE
POLICY COMMITTEE
5 April 2016**

Present: Councillor M Creaghan (Deputy Chairman in the Chair)
Councillors: K Buckley, A Dirir, J Kerr-Brown (for M Smith), S Krizinac
and J Wheeler

Also in Attendance: Councillor J Carter – Executive Member for Children’s
Services
Councilor M McLaughlin – Executive Member for Public
Health and Well-Being

PTMV28 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors P Bretherton, K Morris
and M Smith.

PTMV29 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

PTMV30 Minutes

Decision,

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2016 be confirmed and
signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

PTMV31 Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016

The Committee considered a report of Katherine Fairclough, Deputy Chief Executive,
and Eleanor Blackburn, Strategic Partnerships Manager, on the latest position on
welfare reforms, the potential impact on Warrington residents and the work that the
Council was undertaking to help prepare residents. Ms Fairclough was present at
the meeting to introduce the report and to highlight key issues. The report followed
on from information provided to the Committee at its meeting on 23 June 2015 about
the Framework for Closing the Gap in Social Inequalities and Child Poverty.

The Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016 had gained royal assent on 16 March 2016,
imposing a series of changes to welfare provision and child poverty legislation to be
phased in from April 2016. This added to reforms initiated in 2012, some of which
were still being rolled out.

The Government had recently announced it had cancelled planned cuts to Personal
Independence Payments (PIP), and the Treasury had indicated there were no plans
for further welfare cuts. However, that left a national shortfall in planned welfare
savings of £4.6bn. It was currently unclear how the shortfall would be met.

The Act effectively repealed the Child Poverty Act, renaming it the ‘Life Chances Act’.

It removed the targets, measures, reporting duties and requirements for national and local child poverty strategies, although the Secretary of State would be regularly reporting child poverty statistics to Parliament. The Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission would be repurposed and renamed the Social Mobility Commission.

The changes would come into force two months after Royal Assent – 16 May 2016. An additional reporting obligation on troubled families would be implemented at an unspecified time.

The Council was expecting a significant number of people in Warrington to be impacted. However, exactly who, how many and when was not clear.

The timetable for the reforms had not been published in full, and experience of previous reforms suggested target timescales often slipped. In addition, Warrington Borough Council did not have data about recipients of Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) or Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) regulated benefits. That data was not shared with the Council except under some specific and regulated circumstances, such as assessing social care charging, which did not currently include analysing the impact of welfare reforms.

However, a number of assumptions could be made based on available data. Further detail was provided in the report regarding the expected timetable of roll out, and potential estimated impact of the following the key reforms:

- Housing benefit changes;
- Working age benefits and tax credits freeze;
- Reduction in tax credit income disregard;
- Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) to reduce social housing rents by 1% a year for 4 years from a frozen 2015 to 2016 baseline;
- Benefit cap reduced to £20,000;
- Reduction in Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) work related activity benefit;
- Limits to child element in tax credits and universal credit;
- Housing benefit abolished for 18-21 year olds; and
- Roll out of universal credit.

Following the 2012 reforms, Warrington Borough Council had developed strong working relationships with key partners to co-ordinate a series of projects and activities to help prepare local residents for the coming changes. The Council had formed a group called the Welfare Reform Action Partnership, which had led on, for example, shared communications campaigns, targeted support for at risk communities and training for hundreds of frontline staff.

The ethos of partnership working around the challenging agenda remained strong, and the Council had already held two meetings of the Welfare Reform Action Partnership in 2015, with a third planned for later in April 2016.

However, it was important to recognise that 3 years after the initial reforms, all organisations had found themselves with less resource than they previously had, and

therefore it would not be possible to undertake the same scale of activities as had been undertaken previously. Accordingly, even more careful targeting of resource, as well as making the most use of existing services and new opportunities, would be paramount in the Council's approach. A forward plan would be produced that would pull together key, achievable activities for implementation throughout 2016 and 2017. Some highlights included the following:-

- Working with partners again to undertake a communications campaign;
- Beginning to explore the opportunities for targeted employment support through new European, Big Lottery and Skills Funding Agency funding that was being invested into Cheshire and Warrington over the next 3 years;
- Building on successful improvements to public access to information and advice, for example with the development of a Third Sector led Warrington Advice Network website - <http://www.warrington-advice.co.uk/>, thereby reducing crises such as debt, evictions, and benefit sanctions;
- Exploring options to help poor and vulnerable residents by providing support close to home, linking in with neighbourhood and wellbeing services, organisations such as Warrington Voluntary Action, Warrington Disability Partnership and others to enable the development and growth of local support networks.

Any reduction in income for vulnerable residents would impact upon their quality of life and physical and emotional wellbeing, which in some cases would mean an increased need for public services. There was also likely to be a direct impact on Council income and expenditure linked to, for example, social care charging policies. Further work was required to understand the full impact of those pressures.

Members asked a number of questions or made comments and received responses where indicated, as follows:-

- Warrington received some funding from the European Union (EU). If the outcome of the forthcoming EU referendum was to leave the Union, how would the loss of funding affect the Council's ability to deliver services? – The specific implications would depend on the terms of any deal to exit the EU. Some commitments had already entered into for 2017;
- The effect of the 1% reduction in social housing rents was already being felt by Golden Gates Housing Trust with reductions in staffing. The implications of the loss of support to tenants from social landlords meant that issues could be driven down to the next level of intervention, for example increasing the workload of the Citizens Advice Bureau – The Council was undertaking a piece of work to estimate demand on the advice services and would encourage partners to work together. However, no additional funding would be available from the Council;
- Housing benefit could be backdated for only 1 month, but there were concerns that people with mental health issues might not claim in a timely manner and could then start to accrue serious debts. Typically claims might take 6 months to be completed;
- Protection for vulnerable 18-21 year olds on housing benefit was welcomed, but there were concerns about how vulnerability would be determined and whether the changes would lead to increased homelessness. How many

18-21 olds would be affected? – Figures were available. In general, it was easier for the Council to target support to those clients in receipt of Council benefits, but it was harder to target DWP clients;

- Public money was being saved by the Government under the welfare reforms, but the impacts were on local councils like Warrington. The Council was encouraging those people most affected to get in touch. 18-21 year olds were under further pressure, since they did not receive the Living Wage. There was a view that tapering of benefits did not incentivise people to work. The changes to ESA meant that those with a limited capability for work would receive up to £1,500 a year less. New claimants would see benefits reduce to the Job Seekers Allowance rate. It was hoped that a public campaign might see those decisions reversed;
- Extensive cuts across welfare benefits might lead to homelessness, crime, prison sentences and increased hospital admissions; and
- A lot of work was going into prevention of homelessness, including the resources provided at James Lee House and work to move people on from that situation.

Decision,

- (1) To note the report on the implications of the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016;
- (2) To note the ongoing partnership approach to prepare local communities for further changes, acknowledging the challenging reduction in organisational resources;
- (3) To support the key messages from partners to residents of:-
 - seeking support early;
 - never ignoring correspondence from welfare providers;
 - letting welfare providers know straight away of any change in circumstance; and
 - always attending appointments with welfare providers on time;
- (4) To request the Head of Democratic and Member Services to write to the Executive Board to encourage the Council to write the Government and the two Warrington MPs, to outline the challenges which might be faced by the most vulnerable people in society under the Welfare Reforms and to seek their support in ensuring that adequate provision is available for this group; and
- (5) To request all Members of the Committee through their political party contacts to seek national party political support to minimise the negative impacts of the Welfare Reforms on the most vulnerable in society.

PTMV32 Edge of Care

The Committee considered a presentation provided by Fiona Waddington, Assistant Director, Children and Young People's Targeted Services, on the rising demand in

children's social care. The presentation included information on the following:-

- The national picture;
- North West Context and Warrington's position against the North West benchmark;
- Trends in Warrington for child protection, children in care and care orders;
- Children in care (children started v children ceased);
- Reasons for admission to care;
- Age on admission;
- A case study on neglect;
- Increase in children in care;
- Increase in demand;
- Benchmarking of spend;
- Agency placement and spend;
- Agency foster and residential placements;
- Demand Management Strategy; and
- Development of an Edge of Care Service.

Overall there was a rising number of open cases in 2015-16 (as at Jan 2016), as follows:-

- Child in need up by 51% from 2014-15;
- Child protection up by 16% from 2014-15; and
- Children in care up by 17% from 2014-15.

Some 60% of all new entrants to care in 2014-15 and 62% in 2015-16 (as at Jan 2016) were in the age range 0 – 9. Children in the age range 10 – 14 years spent the longest time in care and were more likely to be returners to care.

Service Developments to date had included the establishment of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in February 2016, which saw the co-location of Children's Social Care, Police, Health, Catch 22, and Child Sexual Exploitation services to improve information-sharing, response and signposting. The Early Help Service had been redesigned into 0 – 10 and 11-19 locality teams, and the Family Outreach Team to focus on early intervention. The Assessment and Intervention Service provided enhanced early intervention at statutory level. A Complex Dependency Programme had also been developed.

The intention now was to develop an Edge of Care Service to help to reduce numbers coming into care and to sustain reunifications. Invest to Save funding had been agreed for 2 years. A Principal Team Manager experienced in running an Edge of Care Service had now been appointed. Phase 1 included Intensive Family Support for 0 -18 years. Two Deputy Team Managers had been appointed and Social Work Assistants would become Families First Workers.

Phase 2 of the service development would comprise an Outreach and Respite Service for age 10 years plus. This would include intensive outreach and where necessary respite. One Council children's home would be designated as an Outreach and Respite Hub.

Members asked a number of questions and received responses, as follows:-

- A recent case in Warrington had received national media attention. Was the increasing demand linked to this incident? – Any national media coverage would normally lead to an increase in referrals;
- Where a child left the home with his/her mother who was fleeing domestic abuse, could the father be banned from seeing the child? – That was one possible outcome if the mother took every step possible. In that instance a Child Protection Plan would not be needed, as the mother was taking all the necessary steps;
- The number of looked after children had increased by 65 in 2015. Was the trend similar to other authorities and what was being done to prevent it? – Comparisons with other authorities and the proposed solutions had been addressed in the overall presentation;
- How could early intervention be improved? – There were many ways to intervene. However, a factor was that sometimes issues were not picked up quickly, because the number of health visits was often not high and families sometimes had little other contact with GPs, nursery schools, or dentists, which would enable concerns to be identified sooner by relevant professionals;
- Was the age of parents a factor in the demand for care? – Most children in care were from parents in their 20s and 30s. Only a very small number were from young parents;
- Children coming into care frequently appeared to include siblings and step-siblings and those fleeing harm. Was there a root cause? – Often the parents had themselves been the recipients of bad parenting experiences;
- Parents often had social needs which required support. Was there support available for them? – Need was often linked to issues such as substance misuse, mental health and domestic violence. Support was available for those groups, although the focus of care services was on the child; and
- Was there any geographical pattern to the demand for care? – It was known that Orford and Bewsey and Dallam were hotspots for Child Protection Plans, but children coming into care were more evenly spread across the Borough.

Decision,

To note the presentation on the rising demand in children's social care and the development of a Demand Management Strategy.

PTMV33 Regional Adoption Agencies

The Committee considered a presentation provided by Fiona Waddington, Assistant Director, Children and Young People's Targeted Services, on the requirements for local authorities to join a Regional Adoption Agency. The presentation included information on the following:-

- The national picture;
- Aims of a Regional Adoption Agency;

- Timetable, caseload, costs, economies of scale;
- Local context;
- North West picture; and
- Establishment of the Regional Adoption Agency for Warrington.

It was proposed that Warrington would form a Regional Adoption Agency with Wigan, St Helens, Halton, Cheshire West and Chester, Caritas Care and Adoption Matters with effect from 1 April 2017.

Councillors asked if the experience of the current arrangements under the Warrington, Wigan and St Helens (WWiSH) partnership had been beneficial and had dealt with adoptions evenly across the region. Ms Waddington responded that the majority of placements last year had been for Wigan. The picture of the current year was similar and the costs were apportioned by means of a formula. Warrington's financial contribution was the lowest.

Decision,

To note the presentation on the establishment of Regional Adoption Agencies and the proposed arrangements for Warrington.

PTMV34 Work Programme 2015/16

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Maureen Creaghan, Deputy Chairman of the Committee, on the delivery of its Work Programme for 2015/16 and the monitoring of actions and recommendations arising from the Committee and any of its Working Groups.

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 23 June 2015, it had approved a number of themes for its draft Work Programme 2015/16, including some topics brought forward from the previous year's Work Programme. Subsequently, further work had taken place to refine the detailed content of the draft and a final Work Programme had been agreed by the Committee on 29 September 2015.

The Work Programme was a living document and was updated periodically in response to changing priorities and other factors. The following amendments to the published programme had been proposed since the Committee's last meeting:-

- Edge of Care – New Item seeking feedback on proposals in relation to admissions to care;
- Regional Adoption Agency – New item seeking feedback on proposals to meet the requirement to join a Regional Adoption Agency;
- Homelessness – New item comprising Portfolio Holder comments on changes to direct access provision for the homeless; and
- Care leavers – Deferred from 5 April 2016 to next meeting to 21 June 2016.

A revised Work Programme was provided along with schedules which provided dates of future meetings, monitoring information on actions and recommendations made, referrals received and recommendations of Working Groups. The two Working Groups identified for 2015/16, were as follows:-

- Child Poverty Framework; and
- Dementia.

In respect of the proposed Working Group on Child Poverty, Members were reminded that the Framework had only recently been established and that it might take time for any outcomes to be realised. A reasonable period of time would be required before the Working Group could commence its review.

On the matter of the proposed Working Group on Dementia it was agreed to defer this to enable further work to be undertaken to narrow the scope of the review.

In relation to the new item on homelessness, it was noted that this matter had also appeared in the Work Programme of the Scrutiny Committee and that the Chairs of the two Committees were in discussions about which Committee would take the matter forward, or whether to embark on a joint review. Cllr Buckley commented that the matter of funding for direct access provision at James Lee House and reduction in funding for the YMCA had raised some concerns. Cllr Kerr-Brown indicated that it would be useful have an overview of the whole issue. Cllr Wheeler suggested that the report could also deal with the possible 18-21 homeless issue identified in the report on the Welfare Reforms. One possible solution was to explore the opportunities for communal living for young homeless, in a similar manner to that of students cohabiting while at University.

Decision,

- (1) To note the updated Work Programme 2015/16, as presented;
- (2) To note the Schedule of future meetings;
- (3) To note the Schedule of Progress on Actions and Recommendations, Referrals from Other Bodies and Final Recommendations from Working Groups;

Protecting the Most Vulnerable Policy Committee
21st June 2016

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

1. Welcome and Introductions – *Chair*

2. The Role of the Committee – *Chair*

Outline of the role of the Committee, it's remit and previous work

3. An Introduction to Health and Social Care – *Julie Smith, Head of Adult Assessment & Care Management Services.*

4. National Policy Themes – *Helen Hill, Senior Policy Officer*

Outline of national policy themes relevant to the Policy Committee.

5. The Warrington Context – *Julie Smith & Fiona Waddington, Assistant Director, Targeted Services, Families and Wellbeing*

Outline of council projects and initiatives relevant to this Policy Committee

6. Work Programme 2016/17 - *All*

Facilitated discussion on topics the committee would like to include in its 2016/17 work programme

7. Next steps – *Chair*

Note: - An introductory guide to the Protecting the Most Vulnerable Policy Committee which includes information on the above topics is attached.



An introduction to Protecting the Most Vulnerable Policy Committee -

21 June 2016

Produced by the Business Intelligence Team

This document explains the purpose and remit of the Protecting the Most Vulnerable Policy Committee and topics it has looked at in 2015/16. It also includes national policy themes that are relevant to this committee and local ideas for inclusion in the 2016/17 work programme.

What does the Committee do?

- The Committee assists the Council and Executive in developing, monitoring and reviewing the Council's plans, policies and strategies
- Scrutinises decisions taken by Executive Board, Committees, Sub-Committees and Officers where appropriate.
- Makes recommendations to Executive Board relevant to its area of activity.

What topics can the Committee look at?

- The protection and safeguarding of vulnerable adults, children and young people
- Regulatory services protecting people from harm
- Health and well being
- Prevention, early help and family support
- Personalisation and disabled children, adults and their families
- Children in care
- Partnership working and integration
- Charging systems
- Social inequalities including child poverty
- Support to young offenders
- Support to victims and those at risk of domestic abuse
- Support to victims of hate crime.

What topics has the Committee looked at in the last year?

- Framework for Closing the Gap in Social Inequalities and Child Poverty 2015-18
- Personal Budget Policy for Children and Young People
- Charging Policy: Carers
- Warrington Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and Complex Dependencies Programme
- The State of Health Care and Adult Social Care in England in 2014/15
- Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS)

- Overview of Warrington Safeguarding Adults Board proposed Prevention Strategy
- SEND Reforms and Autism Provisions/Personal Budgets for Children and Young People Update
- Welfare Reform and Work Act
- Edge of Care
- Regional Adoption Agency

National Policy Themes relevant to this Committee

This section contains details of some of the key national policy themes relevant to the committee which could have an impact on the Council's customers and the town. The highlighted headings are links to the specified policy paper.

Children and Young People

- [Children's social care reform – a vision for change](#) – Government policy paper outlining what it is doing to protect vulnerable children and improve children's social care services. The reforms focus on three areas: people and leadership practice and systems and governance and accountability.
- [Mental health and wellbeing of looked-after children](#) – The report looks across the boundary between health, education and social services making recommendations for changes to statutory guidance, the way children's mental health services are managed at a local level, the way mental health needs of looked after children are assessed and the way in which these children and young people can best be supported through all the agencies that work with them, including schools.
- [Educational outcomes of children in care](#) – This study was a literature review of international research in certain English-speaking nations. The research found that there is a large attainment gap between children in care and their peers which reduces very substantially when other factors are accounted for. Such factors include gender, ethnicity and socioeconomic profile. In England, the attainment gap between children in care and children not in care widens as children get older.
- [Adoption: A vision for change](#) – This policy paper sets out the government's vision for the adoption system in 2020. The proposals include the introduction of Regional Adoption Agencies (RAAs), with all local authorities being part of a RAA by 2020. Other proposals include improving professional skills and knowledge through a new development programme, providing high quality adoption support and introduction of new measures to embed performance management and accountability.
- **School Places** - Across England, the Office for National Statistics has projected there will be an extra 951,200 children aged 14 or below in the country by 2039. Schools and nurseries will have to plan to accommodate 10.6m children in this age group by 2039 compared to the 9.7m in 2014 (LGIU 4.6.16)

Adults

- [What are the opportunities and threats for further savings in adult social care?](#) – Report by Institute of Public Care into the future of adult social care with rising demand and tightening budgets. The report considers how savings have previously been made and investigates the potential for continuing to make savings in the future. Areas covered in the report include: reducing costs and prices, expanding personal budgets, improving systems and processes, managing demand, integrating health and social care, and prevention.
- [Prime Minister's challenge on Dementia 2020: Implementation plan](#) – The Prime Minister's challenge on dementia contains over 50 commitments intended to make England the best country in the world for dementia prevention, care and support. The challenge implementation plan sets out how the commitments will be delivered over the next five years.
- [Discharging Older Patients from Hospital](#) – A new report by the National Audit Office states that there are currently far too many older people in hospitals that do not need to be there. The report also states that the number of delayed transfers has been increasing at an alarming rate. Without radical action, this problem will worsen and add further strain to the financial sustainability of the NHS and local government.
- [Life chances for Carers](#) – New research launched by the national charity Carers UK found that the life chances of carers are being damaged by inadequate support from local services. Mixed support from local services means that the majority of carers are facing barriers to maintaining their health, balancing work and care, and balancing education and care, which is having a markedly negatively impact on their life chances. The research also highlighted the lack of understanding about their caring role from the overall community.
- [Loneliness and social isolation in older people](#) – LGiU briefing that discusses the effects of loneliness and social isolation and impact on social care and health services. Feelings of loneliness and social isolation are particularly acute for older people and have been attributed to increasing the risk of premature death by 30 per cent.
- [Five year forward view for mental health](#) – NHS led initiative to address mental health problems in the UK. The report sets out three main areas which are prevention, seven-day services and integrated physical and mental healthcare. Within this there is also a call for a focus on people at high risk of developing mental health problems, such as those in poverty or unemployed, people facing other forms of discrimination and children and young people. The report sets out recommendations for national and local organisations in the areas of commissioning, workforce, regulation, data and funding.
- [Strategy to end violence against women and girls: 2016-2020](#) – The Government has committed £80 million to protect women and girls from violence. A new VAWG Service Transformation Fund comes into effect in 2017. This will promote projects which are leading the way in stopping violence before it happens, preventing abusive behaviour from becoming entrenched, and establishing the best ways to help victims and their families.

As part of the early intervention work and to break the cycle of violence, the government will work with local authorities on changing the attitudes and behaviours of perpetrators, to make sure rehabilitation, mental health interventions and other appropriate perpetrator programmes are in place.

Warrington Context - Ideas for consideration for the 2016/17 work programme

This section contains details of current projects, initiatives and ideas for the 2016/17 work programme which are relevant to the committee:-

Children and Young People

The projects/initiatives within Children and Young People Services are mainly a continuation of those commenced in 2016/17 but the committee may want to scrutinise the progress made in respect of these and the impact of the plan/strategy.

- Workforce Strategy for Children's Social Care: this strategy is being developed due to the current difficulty being experienced by Warrington in recruiting and retaining children's social work practitioners and managers.
- Redesign of Early Help Division: the redesign plan is being implemented and service delivery will move to 3 locality based teams in July 2016. The redesign was required in order to make Directorate savings but the aim of the new delivery model is to improve the effectiveness of the early help offer and reduce the need for statutory intervention.
- Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH): the MASH was established in February 2016 and aims to improve information sharing between statutory partners and decision making and for a timely safeguarding response to be provided.
- Edge of Care Service: Due to the rising numbers of child subject to child protection plans and coming into care a new service with the aim of reducing demand is to be provided. The service will be established through July and August 2016 being fully functioning by September.
- Collaboration to increase numbers of foster carers: Regionally the numbers of local authority foster carers is decreasing with local authorities, including Warrington, having a growing reliance on Independent Fostering Agencies for placements. Warrington, Cheshire West and Chester, Halton and Cheshire East are working together to explore how recruitment and assessment of foster carers could be undertaken on a sub-regional basis.
- Regional Adoption Agency: Warrington is joining forces with Cheshire West and Chester, Halton, St Helens and Wigan to establish a RAA in 2016/17. This is a statutory requirement and progress needs to be maintained in order for the RAA to become established.
- Improving educational outcomes for vulnerable children: A programme of projects will be undertaken in 2016/17 specifically focused on ways to reverse the trend of the attainment gap widening between mainstream and vulnerable children.

Adults

- The social care market – adequacy, sustainability and meeting the cost of care
- The quality of social care provision
- A fair charging regime for provision
- ‘Full integration by 2020’ – exploring how we meet the government’s objective to fully integrate health and social care by 2020 (possible policy development activity)
- Out of Borough Placements – cost, quality and what does it say about in-borough provision
- Suicide and self-harm
- Supported employment – new solutions
- Harnessing the power of assistive technology to support independence
- ‘Building the Right Support’ – roll out of the national programme post Winterbourne View
- Crime against vulnerable people (doorstep crime, disability hate crime etc)
- Workforce challenges in social care
- Homelessness
- Mental health and the crisis care concordat
- Self –neglect
- Dementia friendly Warrington
- Supporting carers
- **New Psychoactive Substances (Legal Highs) Legislation** – This idea has been suggested for the Building Stronger Communities Policy Committee because anti-social behaviour is closely linked with legal highs and is a specific problem in some parts of the town. There are options to introduce Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) to address this issue. This is a priority area for the Council’s Community Safety Partnership.
- **Narrowing the gap strategy 2015-18** – This strategy contains a framework to reduce social inequality and poverty in the town’s most deprived areas, some of which are in the central neighbourhood area. The committee could have a look at the outcomes from the framework.
- **Health in Business programme** – The aim of this programme is to explore opportunities to work with local businesses to improve the health of Warrington’s communities. The programme commenced in 2015. Supported employment, business support to micro-businesses, apprenticeships, graduate schemes, and budget booster clubs can help reduce inequalities by matching skills to job market in the more deprived neighbourhoods. There are opportunities for the committee to look at the current status of the programme and progress made.

What next?

The Committee are invited to discuss the national policy trends, local ideas and any other suggestions and decide which topics they would like to include in the 2016/17 work programme.

When the topics have been selected the Chair and Deputy will work with the Assistant Director Link Officer, Business Intelligence Officer and Democratic Services Officer to develop and prioritise the ideas. The draft programme will then be emailed to all members of the Committee for approval.

