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**BOROUGH OF KETTERING**

**RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**Meeting held: 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013**

**Present:**

Councillor Paul Marks (Chair)

Councillor Dave Bishop

Councillor Maggie Don

Councillor Jim Hakewill (Deputy Chair)

Councillor Jenny Henson

Councillor David Soans

Councillor Mike Tebbutt

**13.RD.15      APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Margaret Talbot.

**13.RD.16      MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**

that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2013 be approved and signed as a correct record

**13.RD.17      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Hakewill declared a personal interest in Item A2, Kettering Borough Council Allotments, as his son-in-law was involved in Green Patch.

**13.RD.18      DRUGS TREATMENT SERVICES IN KETTERING BOROUGH (A1)**

The Committee noted that at the previous meeting in September 2013, members had requested additional information on the current policy for tackling drug use in Northamptonshire.

Terry Pearson from the Drugs and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) and Nic Adamson and Sandra Eden from Crime Reduction Initiatives (CRI) attended the meeting to provide an outline of the services currently on offer in the borough.

The Committee were advised that since 2010, central government had adopted a fundamentally different strategy in tackling drug and alcohol issues affecting individuals in the community. The revised aim was to provide a service which assisted clients in both recovery and integration back into their community.

With effect from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2013, CRI had become responsible for the delivery of drug and alcohol services in Northamptonshire. Their aim was to provide users of the service with assessment, advice and support around their addictive behaviours. In addition, users could receive assistance in accessing health, housing, education and training provisions. At the point CRI went live, 222 individuals in Kettering borough were receiving treatment. The figure had now risen dramatically to reach 310, as CRI reached into new user communities and met new needs. To date, 37 individuals had successfully completed treatment and left the scheme, a rate above the national average.

The presentation further highlighted the challenges facing the service at the current time. It was noted that CRI had been unable to secure a permanent delivery site for services within Kettering borough. Services were currently split between sites, with open access services at Jhoots Pharmacy in Northfield Avenue, clinical interventions from Kettering Borough Council and psycho-social intervention at the Corn Market Hall. CRI were also experiencing recruitment issues in Northamptonshire, with reliance on agency staff resulting in problems with the continuity of services provided. A new recruitment drive would take place in early 2014.

Committee members were provided with the opportunity to partake in a question and answer session. Topics discussed included:-

- Methods by which individuals came into contact with CRI; voluntarily, by referral or through the justice system.
- The contract for CRI only covered individuals over the age of 18, anyone younger was assisted through the Young People's Service.
- CRI were aware of a number of troubled families in the borough and aimed to provide as many bridges as possible to assist those identified in receiving treatment.
- CRI was working in rural areas of the borough, but a permanent base in Kettering would assist with that work.
- Members would lend their support in providing positive messages regarding the service, with a view to aiding CRI in obtaining a permanent base within Kettering

- All councillors were invited to visit CRI, to see first hand the work carried out by the organisation. An invite was extended to members to attend the service launch on 22 January 2014 of Substance 2 Solution (S2S), the new branding for the Kettering and Corby areas.

The Committee thanked those involved in the presentation for their attendance and requested that further information be provided to all members either at a future meeting of Full Council or in the form of a Member's Information Evening.

**RESOLVED** that the contents of the presentation be noted.

*Councillor Tebbutt departed the meeting at 7.40pm*

### **13.RD.19 KETTERING BOROUGH COUNCIL ALLOTMENTS (A2)**

Members of the Committee received a presentation from the Head of Community Services which outlined general information relating to the provision of allotments within the Borough.

Members were advised that demand for allotments had outstripped supply, and Section 106 agreements were being utilised to provide additional capacity in the borough.

The Committee was delighted to hear that the Green Patch was guaranteed re-provision at an alternate site due to encroachment by road systems forming part of the East of Kettering development. It was noted that this relocation could be marginal or total, depending on the outcome of discussions with the planning department.

A potential link between allotment sites in the borough and the forthcoming People's Wood was suggested.

Vandalism at allotment sites was discussed, with members noting that it was an ongoing issue at several sites and Margaret Road in particular. Members were advised that John Nicholls and the police were currently examining access to the site in an attempt to reduce vandalism and theft.

**RESOLVED** that the contents of the presentation be noted.

**13.RD.20**     **EMERGING POLICY FOR OUTDOOR GYMS AND PLAY SCHEMES (A3)**

Members of the Committee received a presentation from the Head of Community Services which sought to provide general information with regard to the provision of outdoor gyms and associated play schemes within the Borough.

Members heard that the popularity of outdoor gyms across the country was increasing rapidly, and KBC had been conducting research into the operation of similar schemes outside the borough.

It was noted that purchase and installation costs of equipment could be in the region of £350k and therefore the size of planned schemes was governed by the level of external funding that could be obtained. It was further noted that prior to obtaining funding, extensive community consultation was required to adequately demonstrate the need for such a scheme.

Current planned sites for outdoor gym schemes included Rockingham Road Park, where KBC was working closely with the Friends of Rockingham Road Park Group (FORRP), and Millennium Park at Brambleside where the project was being led by Brambleside Community Association.

The Committee declared their support for such schemes, although they raised concern over Personal Trainers using the equipment at the expense of members of the public. Members heard that should this become an issue, policy would be amended to tackle the issue.

**RESOLVED**            that resource implications and active role of community groups in securing funding for the recent installation of outdoor gyms be noted.

**13.RD.21**     **WORK PROGRAMME (A4)**

The work programme was noted.

Members requested the formation of a Task and Finish Group on the topic of the impact and implications of High Speed Two (HS2) and rail services in the borough.

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee was scheduled to take place on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

*(The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 9.05 pm)*

Signed .....  
Chair

DJP