

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 77
Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Information sharing regarding vulnerable adults Scrutiny Panel

Date of Meeting: 27 March 2012

Report of: The Strategic Director, Resources

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Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 The subject for this Panel was originally suggested by East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service (ESFRS) during a consultation process to identify potential issues for scrutiny panels. In September 2010 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that the issue should be put on the list of forthcoming panels when time allowed.
- 1.2 The Panel members were Councillor Ruth Buckley (Chair), Councillor Ken Norman, Councillor Alan Robins, and a co-opted member Andy Reynolds, Director of Prevention and Protection, East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That members:
- (1) Endorse the attached report and its recommendations;
- (2) Agree to refer the report to the relevant executive committee requesting that they enact the Panel's recommendations.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The request from East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service was based on a desire to explore with partners how information about vulnerable adults

was shared and to “work with them proactively to improve the safety and quality of life” including what improvements were required. There is clear definition of an individual being vulnerable to risk of fire. For example, in terms of mobility, smoking, alcohol and substance misuse, and mental health, the more vulnerable that person was to risk of fire. These factors linked with old age, sensory impairment and living alone increased that vulnerability considerably.

- 3.2 The Panel held one private scoping meeting on 15 September 2011 and three public evidence gathering sessions on 18 October 2011, 7 November 2011, and 28 November 2011. The report contains nine recommendations to help information sharing regarding vulnerable adults. In addition, the Panel were delighted that, through their information gathering process they were able to facilitate links between organisations and build on those already there.
- 3.3 More information on information sharing regarding vulnerable adults is included in the Scrutiny Panel report (**Appendix 1**).

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The Panel report is the result of an evidence-gathering process which has included representatives from Adult Social Care, Housing, Emergency Planning, Sussex Police, Sussex Partnership Trust, Sussex Community Trust, and Rise UK.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The financial implications of adopting the scrutiny panel’s recommendations will be considered by the Council’s Executive alongside the relevant budgets.

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The Committee has the necessary power to agree the panel’s recommendations. It then falls to the Executive and other bodies to whom the recommendations are directed to decide what action, if any, to take in response.

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 An Equalities Impact Assessment was carried out at the start of the inquiry.

Sustainability Implications:

5.4 The Scrutiny Panel report does not specifically address sustainability implications.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

5.5 The Scrutiny Panel report does not specifically address crime and disorder implications.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

5.6 The Scrutiny Panel report does not specifically address risk and opportunity management implications.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

5.7 The Scrutiny Panel recommendations support the outcome in the Corporate Plan “vulnerable adults supported to live healthy, independent lives”.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. The Scrutiny Panel report

Documents in Members’ Rooms:

None

Background Documents:

None

