

Cabinet

Meeting to be held on 14 April 2016

Report of the Director of Public Health

Electoral Divisions affected:

All

Lancashire Fairness Commission

(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

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Executive Summary

One of the objectives of the Commission was to advise the County Council on how to shape its services to minimise the impact on the most vulnerable people in Lancashire

This report sets out the County Council's response to the recommendations made by the independent Lancashire Fairness Commission and the ways in which it is working to address fairness in Lancashire.

This report is in response to the recommendations which are directly addresses to the County Council.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) Note the approaches to implement the actions
- (ii) Consider and agree the proposals for hosting the feedback event.

Background and Advice

In March 2014, Cabinet agreed to establish an independent Lancashire Fairness Commission to provide an independent perspective on inequality in Lancashire and to make recommendations to Lancashire County Council and its partners to increase fairness.

The Commission was made up of 21 independent commissioners (see Appendix 'A' for membership) and chaired by the Very Reverend Christopher Armstrong, Dean of Blackburn. It had two main tasks; firstly, it sought to understand the practical effect of austerity on people's lives. Secondly, it engaged with the local community and worked towards producing recommendations for the County Council and other

partner organisations on how best they could deliver services to create a fairer Lancashire in terms of prosperity, health and wellbeing. The Commission looked at fairness over the life course and held three themed evidence meetings; Starting Well; Living Well and Ageing Well. Evidence was sought from national experts, academics, members of the public, front line workers and the commissioners themselves. An in-depth analysis of the evidence collected was undertaken which enabled the commissioners to produce their report and a set of robust evidence based recommendations.

"Fairness in Lancashire; One Year On" - Event

The report was presented to Cabinet by The Very Reverend Christopher Armstrong in March 2015 marking the end of the Commission's work. It was agreed that the organisations which had recommendations aimed at them would come back together 12 months after publication of the report to feedback on their progress towards a fairer Lancashire.

The chair of the Lancashire Fairness Commission has agreed to chair this event, which will be held in early summer 2016.

Response

There were 27 recommendations in total, 12 of which were targeted directly at the County Council. This report sets out the Council's response to those recommendations.

The County Council has embedded the Principles for Fairness, set out by the Fairness Commission, in our overarching approach to help ensure that we have a sustainable and effective model of future service delivery. Our approach recognises that, broadly speaking, the most deprived communities experience the worst outcomes and the most affluent communities experience the best.

For example, a male child born today in one of most deprived communities in Lancashire would be expected to live, on average, until they were 74. A male child born today in one of our most affluent communities could expect to live for almost 7 years longer, and to be free of disability for almost 9 years longer than their counterpart. In determining how we can best target our resources across Lancashire we have recognised the need to ensure that the council's services are designed to address the significant variations in need that underpin these huge contrasts. We will target resources towards communities and individuals who are most in need, whilst also sustaining a proportionate level of resource to universal services.

In practical terms this means that we have wherever possible protected, or increased, the level of investment in statutory social care services for children, adults and older people. We have recognised that we are not able to face the challenges of increasing costs and demand alone and are actively working with colleagues in the health sector, through the Healthier Lancashire programme and Better Care Fund, to ensure our priorities and resources are aligned.

Whilst it is clear that the County Council is already doing a considerable amount of work to ensure fairness across its services and across Lancashire, our need to deliver statutory services and protect the most vulnerable has led to difficult decisions about the future of some services, such as libraries and transport. However, we are working with communities and through our elected members to ensure that we continue to target a proportionate level of resource to these important areas, and to determine ways in which we can best meet the needs of communities across Lancashire with a reduced level of financial resource.

Draft Corporate Strategy

Against the situation outlined above the council's core purpose has been agreed; to work for the people of Lancashire to enable them to:

- live a healthy life;
- live in decent home in a good environment; and
- have employment that provides an income that allows full participation in society.

The Fairness Commission set out the principles for fairness which have been reflected in the new draft Corporate Strategy. These are that:

- All services should be provided at a scale and intensity that is proportionate to the need and by the most appropriate provider.
- Those who have the greatest assets should make the biggest contributions in time, resource and commitment.
- The commitment to fairness must be countywide and for the long-term. Preventing inequalities is better, (and cheaper) than trying to cure them.
- Civic responsibility must be reinforced – all residents can contribute to making Lancashire fairer and for all citizens to have a say.
- We require an open, continuous campaign for fairness across Lancashire.
- Fairness must be a matter of balance between different groups, communities and generations.

This demonstrates the organisation's commitment to taking a strategic approach to fairness as well as responding to the individual recommendations.

In everything we do as an organisation we are committed to being fair; trustworthy; ambitious and to have belief in people. Our approach to service delivery will be needs and evidence-based and planned around the needs of communities. A neighbourhoods plan will be produced which reflects the differing levels and types of need within those communities. The neighbourhoods plan will identify how the County Council's services will be provided across Lancashire in an equitable way.

Next steps

The Lancashire Fairness Commission made its recommendations in 2015 based on the evidence they had heard from national and local experts, from service users and members of the public through a wide range of channels. These recommendations were made outside of any financial considerations. This report presents what actions are currently underway to address the recommendations

In responding to the recommendations the focus has been to look at what we can do within the scope of the recommendation to increase fairness within the context of the new draft Corporate Strategy.

Hosted Event

It is suggested that the "Fairness in Lancashire; One Year On" – Event is held in June and that the contribution from the County Council is to present to all of the commissioners and stakeholders our draft Corporate Strategy as our strategic approach to fairness across Lancashire.

Consultations

Corporate Strategy Consultation

- Lancashire Fairness Commissioners
- The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- The Lancashire Combined Fire Authority
- Recognised Trade Unions
- Borough, City and Unitary Councils in Lancashire
- Third Sector Lancashire
- Association of Parish Councils
- Lancashire Safeguarding Children's Board
- Lancashire Care Association
- The Older People's Forum
- The Chamber of Commerce
- The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership
- HealthWatch Lancashire
- The Clinical Commissioning Groups
- Young People's Engagement Forums
- December Full Council

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

This report has no significant legal, financial or HR implications

Risk management

No significant risks have been identified in relation to the proposals contained within this report.

List of Background Papers

| Paper | Date | Contact/Tel |
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| <u>Lancashire Fairness Commission Report</u> http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/fairness-commission/our-report.aspx | March 2015 | Gill Milward 01772 533381 Mob: 07876844111 |

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A