

Cllr Lennox-Boyd - Cornwall Council Update

1. Review of Licensing Act Policy 2003 - Tuesday 26 Jan 2024

Every five years the committee reviews the Licensing Act Policy in light of changes in the Licensing Act. The policy went to the consultees for consultation August; in September the revised draft went out for Public Consultation.

Changes that have been made to the policy include:

- Cornwall deal with 2500 annually temporary event notices. Numerous members have asked how they can access info re. events in their area. Since 19 June 2023 there is now a register for these events which can be accessed via the Cornwall Council website so readily accessible by members and the public.
- Counter Terrorism on page 50 of the policy has been updated. Protection of Premises bill - referred to the protect duty or Martin's Law, is expected to become law in 2024/5. The aim is to improve safety and security in public venues and to help ensure that people are prepared and ready to respond to a terrorist attack.
- The Licensing Sub Committee is the only committee permitted to meet and vote online since Covid. As Chair I felt there was a lack of information regarding the procedure format for those meetings. The changes to the format mean that those meetings follow precisely the format as set out in the agenda ensuring the proper conduct of all meetings. It was noted by members that these changes may assist other Sub-Committees too.
- A question at Full Council at January's CC Full Council referred to the virtual meeting of the sub-committee as undemocratic to the people of Cornwall. All meetings are available for the public to join online via a Teams link from Democratic Services, and each six months the decision to hold these meetings virtually is revisited. Virtual meetings are an asset in my opinion and I would welcome a change from the government to allow them more frequently as they did during Covid. Working patterns have changed and we need to adjust to those as well as the need to adjust our practises taking in to the impact they on the environment.
- Drink Spiking was discussed in the December meeting. We are asking relevant staff in licensed premises to undertake Spiking Awareness Training via the Police and their 'Stamp out Spiking' campaign with the training to be repeated annually.

2. Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Youth Work Provision

Last year Cornwall Council asked Town and Parish Councils to provide information to support its review of Youth Service Provision in Cornwall. The review has been concluded and the responses were debated by the committee on 17 January.

We asked for a members enquiry into the Youth Provision Review to gain a fuller understanding of provision in Cornwall provided internally by CC or externally by the voluntary care sector. This included member visits to the different types of provision supported by town and parish councils.

There is some excellent work being undertaken by the voluntary sector with support from parish and town councils to meet their local need, and great training opportunities including a first cohort of Youth Work apprentices being currently trained at Marjon's in Plymouth. The provision is so vast that it's hard to get a complete picture but typically, we debated the need for:

- More SEND provision
- Where to target Commissioned Services across Cornwall
- Support for smaller voluntary/community applications for funding
- The risk of perceived unfairness for areas that already have good resources in place receiving less subsequent investment

Outcomes included:

- Cornwall Council to join and play active role in Cornwall Youth Work Collective

- To develop the National Youth Agency standards for Youth Work in Cornwall
- For the Collective to offer peer support across voluntary and community youth sector
- To support the work of Young Ambassadors in consulting young people
- Hold an Annual Youth Work Conference to be delivered in partnership
- Produce an All Member Briefing on the outcome of the review

Placement Sufficiency Strategy: Better Homes for Children

This strategy supports one of the four priority outcomes: Cornwall is 'A Brilliant Place To Be A Child and Grow Up'. Local authorities have a duty to provide or procure homes for children in care. The sufficiency strategy sets out our aspirations for the next three years and the plan to increase the range of sufficient quality homes for children and young people.

Nationally:

Of 2,873 only 4 percent of residential provision is based within the South West. Less than 1 percent of these homes are in Cornwall.

Locally:

There are 565 looked-after children in Cornwall - 76 percent in foster homes.

102 looked-after children from Cornwall are placed out of county.

164 looked-after children living in Cornwall are from other LAs.

Just 10 registered children's home offering 28 placements.

Only 8 young people from Cornwall have been placed within these places.

Cornwall has experienced a 9 percent increase in foster placements from 2022.

A detailed Strategy Implementation Plan will be developed to ensure oversight and delivery of the programme with regular engagement activities with children, young people, families, partner agencies and wider stakeholders.

Council Business Financial Plans

All authorities are facing challenges on budgets and financial pressures.

The Council's net revenue budget for 2024/5 is £55m greater than the previous year. Part of this is inflationary pressures, and £59m of growth relating to service demand pressures:

£18m increased demand for adult social care

£10m increased demand in children's social care services

£10m relating to temporary and emergency accommodation - over 800 families

£8m ongoing demand pressures on home to school transport

£0.6m investment in Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service Critical Control Centre (Tolvaddon)

The Deputy Leader of Cornwall Council David Harris sent a letter to the Secretary of State re. the provisional local government settlement on 15 January expressing disappointment and asking for further and additional funding support.



And finally to end, some interesting reading from The Guardian about how social workers are helping families stay together using a special model creating networks of support for children:

https://bit.ly/progressive-practice-in-cornwall-council_childrenandfamilies