

10. ADVICE SHOP SERVICE UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Property Services informing the committee of the work undertaken by the Advice Shop Service from April 2017 to March 2018.

The report explained that the Advice Shop was a free, impartial and confidential service aiming to alleviate poverty and promote inclusion and equality through advice, assistance and advocacy. Activity across the service was informed and prioritised by the recently refreshed Community Planning Partnership Anti-Poverty Strategy.

The report went on to update the committee on local provision; the Advice Shop had dealt with 3,395 enquiries from 1,181 customers, an increase of 19% compared to the same period in the previous year. Appendix 1 showed local provision in more detail.

Priorities for development over 2018/19 were to: develop and embed Advice Shop session in East Calder; work with partners to mitigate the effects of the full roll out of Universal Credit, which commenced in May 2018; and increase awareness of the One-2-One project which focused on those with long-term poor mental health.

The report recommended that the committee note:

1. The Advice Shop provision in the ward; and
2. The impact provision was having in terms of supporting the outcomes of the Community Planning Partnership's Anti-Poverty Strategy 2018-23.

DECISION

To note the contents of the report.