

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

A meeting of the Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel was held on 30 July 2019.

PRESENT: Councillors Platt (Chair), Garvey, Goodchild, Jones, Lewis and Walker.

OFFICERS: C Lunn.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors Cooke, Smith and Wilson.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no Declarations of Interest.

MINUTES - ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL - 1 JULY 2019

The minutes of the Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 1 July 2019 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

SETTING THE SCRUTINY PANEL'S WORK PROGRAMME 2019/2020

The Democratic Services Officer presented a report, the purpose of which was to invite the Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel to consider its work programme for the 2019/2020 Municipal Year.

A list of potential topics, which were anticipated to be of particular interest to the Scrutiny Panel, and the suggestions received in respect of the Panel's remit were contained in the submitted report.

The report indicated that the topical issues and suggestions outlined were merely proposals, and that the content of the work programme was entirely a decision for the Panel to make.

The Panel was encouraged to select two topics for full review, where scrutiny could make an impact, add value or contribute to policy development.

To assist with the task, the Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration had been in attendance at the last Panel meeting (1 July 2019) to provide an overview of the main services within the Panel's remit, and to outline the priorities, key issues and challenges for the year ahead.

A discussion ensued regarding the information provided.

The Panel considered the 'Physical Activity for Older People' topic identified on page three of the report.

Members discussed the existing leisure facilities available in Middlesbrough, in particular the use of these and any accessibility issues that could be presented. Reference was made to public transportation (bus) routes and free/subsidised travel schemes, as well as membership fees associated with different leisure venues and facilities.

The Panel considered lighter forms of exercise, with particular attention being paid towards walking and the associated health benefits. Various walking groups operated within the town, with mention being made of the different localities of these and the social benefits that group exercise provided. Activities were known to currently take place in public parks, the town centre and in the vicinity of community buildings.

For focus, the Panel discussed the age range to which this topic would most suitably align. It was felt that specific attention towards those aged 65-plus would help to maintain the independence of this group, and hopefully minimise the need for access to social care services and support for longer. Mention was made of potential organisations and individuals that could assist with the scrutiny of this topic.

The Panel agreed to pursue this suggestion as its first topic for review. A Member suggested that a preliminary scoping exercise be undertaken to identify the types of activities and services currently being offered and how well these were used (on a top-level/overview basis).

A Member made reference to The Live Well Centre in Dundas House and the range of services, support and facilities presently being offered to the people of Middlesbrough.

A Member made reference to the 'Social Care Support for Refugees and Asylum Seekers' suggestion, and commented that the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel had recently discussed this topic. It was felt that there could be opportunity for joint working/referrals if this topic were to be pursued.

A discussion ensued in relation to the suggested topic of 'Palliative and End of Life Care'. Reference was made to a review previously undertaken by the Health Scrutiny Panel around this. Members considered the suggestion in respect of the Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel's remit. It was acknowledged that this topic was predominantly health-based and that, if pursued, it was possible that some of the points raised may require referral to/input from the Health Scrutiny Panel. However, Members were keen to review this topic from a social care perspective and ascertain the degree of support currently provided by social care professionals. The previous review had been undertaken some years previously and it was acknowledged that support mechanisms may have significantly changed. Members felt that this would be a particularly challenging, but enlightening, topic to pursue, and necessary to revisit via this Scrutiny Panel. Members discussed varying case examples pertaining to the topic, together with the role of hospices and care provision at home.

The Panel discussed social care provision, the financials involved and the current issues facing health and social care on both a local and national basis.

The Panel agreed to pursue the topic of 'Palliative and End of Life Care' following conclusion of the review around 'Physical Activity for Older People (aged 65+)'.

A Member expressed interest in the suggestion regarding 'Access to Wheelchair Services'. The Panel discussed this, with consideration being given to wheelchair users across the lifespan. Reference was made to licensing matters and private hire vehicles, previous transportation initiatives undertaken by the Local Authority, and the topics of loneliness and social isolation. It was agreed that, subject to the completion of the above reviews, this topic would also be investigated.

The agreed topics would be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Board for consideration/approval at the next scheduled meeting in September 2019.

With regards to other elements of the work programme, Members agreed that updates in respect of two previous scrutiny reviews ('Reducing Loneliness and/or Social Isolation in Later Life' and 'The LGB&T Community and Elderly Care') would be received, together with regular updates in respect of the Integration of Health and Social Care.

A discussion ensued regarding the 'Physical Activity for Older People (65-plus)' topic which, subject to approval of the Scrutiny Work Programme by the Overview and Scrutiny Board, would be commenced at the next scheduled Panel meeting on 16 September 2019.

AGREED that:

1. **The agreed work programme would be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Board for consideration/approval;**
2. **Subject to the above approval, the 'Physical Activity for Older People (aged 65-plus)' review would commence at the next meeting of the Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel on 16 September 2019; and**
3. **The information, as presented, be noted.**

PROPOSED MEETING SCHEDULE 2019/2020

A provisional schedule of meeting dates for the 2019/2020 Municipal Year was submitted for the Panel's consideration.

AGREED that the proposed meeting schedule for the 2019/2020 Municipal Year be approved.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD - UPDATE

The Chair provided a verbal update on the matters that were considered at the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting on 16 July 2019.

NOTED