

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

Setting the Scrutiny Panel's Work Programme 2020/21

29 July 2020

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To invite the Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny panel to consider its work programme for the 2020/2021 municipal year.

BACKGROUND

2. At the start of every municipal year, scrutiny panels discuss the topics that they would like to review during the coming year.
3. Work programmes are useful as they provide some structure to a scrutiny panel's activity and allow for the effective planning and preparation of work.
4. The topics considered by the Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel in 2019/2020 are listed below for Members' information:

Full reviews- 2019/20

- Physical Activity for Older People (aged 65+)- ongoing. Service area will be contacted to assess the changes due to Covid-19.

Outstanding Topics from the 2019/2020 Work Programme, as agreed at the 30 July 2019 Panel meeting:

- 'Palliative and End of Life Care' – It was agreed that this topic would be investigated in partnership with the Health Scrutiny Panel. A joint meeting was scheduled to take place on 15 April 2020, with the Chief Executive of Teesside Hospice invited to attend. Due to Covid, this meeting was postponed.
- 'Access to Wheelchair Services' – This topic was agreed last year. Possible partnership with Health Scrutiny Panel, as there will be an emphasis on NHS services. Areas from the Local Authority's perspective could include Taxi Licensing, and provision of facilities/services in the Town Centre, for example.

Other Items

- 'Ageing Better Middlesbrough (ABM) – Update and Future/Legacy Planning'. At the Panel's request, Michelle Dawson (ABM's Programme Manager) was due to attend the 18 March 2020 meeting to provide an update/information, but the meeting was inquorate.

- 'Integration of Health and Social Care' – Following agreement by the Panel in 2019, this is a standard item on all agendas.

5. As part of the process for establishing the work programme, support officers gather information/views from a number of sources. Below is a list of topics which are anticipated to be of particular interest to the scrutiny panel. Members are advised that the list of possible topics is not exhaustive and that additional topics can be added and considered at the scrutiny panel meeting.

Topical and local Issues

Topic	Details
<p>National COVID-19 social care support taskforce- the impact on Adult Social Care and the social care testing strategy.</p> <p>What impact has the legislation Coronavirus Act 2020 had on services in Middlesbrough?</p>	<p>The global pandemic of Covid-19 created huge challenges to all services to especially to adult social care.</p> <p>What have been the challenges and how is Middlesbrough planning to recover from these? What has the estimated cost been to the Council as a result of Covid- 19 (supplying PPE etc)</p> <p>What impact will the funding supplied from the social care taskforce have on the recovery of services?</p> <p>On 3 July 2020, the Government announced staff and residents in care homes for over 65s and those with dementia will receive regular coronavirus tests from next week as part of a new social care testing strategy.</p> <p>The new testing strategy comes following the latest advice from SAGE and new evidence from the Vivaldi 1 study indicating a higher prevalence in care homes, and therefore a case for frequent testing in care homes and their staff.</p> <p>What has the impact been since regular testing and what are the current covid-19 rates in carehomes.</p> <p>NB: Issue was addressed at the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 2 July 2020.</p>
<p>Social Care Support for Refugees and Asylum Seekers</p>	<p>In 2015, the SCIE published a guidance document entitled 'Good Practice in Social Care for Refugees and Asylum Seekers'.</p> <p>In 2016, the Home Office reported that Middlesbrough continued to home the highest proportion of asylum seekers in the UK, with a ratio of one asylum seeker to 152 residents. This was subsequently reported by various local and national media sources (e.g. Evening Gazette, 2016a).</p>

	<p>The Local Government Association (LGA) (2018) provides an online one-stop resource for Councillors and Council Officers, entitled 'Council Support: Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Unaccompanied Children'.</p> <p>There are support programmes and services currently being operated, such as the North of England Refugee Service's Health Access for Refugees Programme (HARP) (2018), which is funded by the Department of Health. The programme currently operates in six areas: Middlesbrough, Doncaster, Hull, Leeds, Sheffield and Wakefield, and aims to train volunteers to undertake a variety of work, including supporting newly arriving refugees and asylum seekers in accessing health and social care services.</p> <p>In January 2019, the Evening Gazette reported that Teesside has, and continues to have, a high proportion of asylum seekers.</p> <p>Asylum seekers are classes as a vulnerable group and therefore what impact has covid-19 had on social care within this community and what extra measures have been in place to support this community?r</p>
<p>The Recruitment and Retention of Care Workers</p>	<p>In February 2019, Matthews-King reported that, due to the increasing number of older patients, an additional 650,000 social care workers will be required by 2035. However, nationally, according to both Matthews-King and Skills for Care (2019), between 390,000 and 400,000 care workers currently leave the sector annually (over 1,000 every day), which equates to a 30.7% turnover rate (twice the national average). Matthews-King reports that social care funding pressures and limited opportunities for training and career progression are key contributing factors to this, with issues around Brexit and the filling of roles currently occupied by staff from overseas (1 in 6) also being highlighted.</p> <p>Between 12 February and 7 April 2019, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) carried out a national recruitment campaign.</p> <p>Entitled 'Every Day Is Different', the purpose of the campaign was to help fill the 110,000 vacancies that are available in the Adult Social Care sector (DHSC, 2019). Skills for Care reported in June 2019 that, following an evaluation, a second national campaign has been approved to run in 2019/2020.</p>

Suggestions

Suggestion	Details
<p>Improved support for unpaid carers (suggestion from Healthwatch South Tees)</p>	<p>Despite legislative changes to support carers and those with disabilities, our engagement with parents and carers has highlighted the adverse emotional and often physical impact of caring. This is regardless of whether they are caring for an adult (For example, someone with dementia, or a child with SEND e.g. Autism, ADHD, Learning Disabilities, Mental Health conditions). Through our engagement it has highlighted that more needs to be done to engage carers to identify the exact nature of the issues and how to resolve them.</p> <p>Some of the main factors highlighted by carers were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The length of time it takes for assessment and diagnosis of neurological conditions and the lack appropriate support during this time. • Lack of awareness or acknowledgement of the impact of hidden disabilities on the lives of those with the conditions and those that care for them. Support in school highlighted very difficult circumstances for both the child and parent that were often persistent throughout school years. • The need for health and social care to improved and ongoing input into EHCP's • Better support around preparing for adulthood • Lack of reasonable adjustments for carers and those with disabilities in some GP practices • Annual Health checks for children/young people not being offered • Long term health conditions in those with neurodevelopmental conditions not being managed effectively • Options for short breaks and social care not widely discussed/offered. • Significant long term unhappiness and mental health issues. • Acute isolation • Carers putting their own physical and emotional health aside. • Few personal health budgets and poor experiences of using them. <p>Examining this topic would help to:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve current struggles to get support and services needed, for the person they care for and themselves • Increase the number of reasonable adjustments in accessing service • Improve attitudes of professionals and the public • Ensure Government strategies deliver • Improve the financial impact of caring for someone with a disability • Improve the strain of caring on everyday life
<p>The impact of Coronavirus on vulnerable residents</p> <p>(suggestion from a Councillor)</p>	<p>My main concern is elderly people who are dependent on others to obtain shopping or collect pension money. It is possible we may have as reoccurrence of the virus or a like virus in the future, so we need to assess how effective our response strategy has been so far and whether any improvements need to be made.</p>

6. It should be noted that the suggested topics outlined above are exactly that, suggestions. The content of the scrutiny panel's work programme is entirely a decision for the panel to make. When considering the work programme, the panel is advised to select topics that are of interest to it, as well as topics that the panel feels by considering, it could add value to the Local Authority's work.
7. In addition to undertaking the agreed work programme, scrutiny panels have also previously responded on an ad-hoc basis to emerging issues - such as considering relevant new legislation, guidance or Government consultation documents. This approach occasionally results in further topics being identified for investigation or review throughout the year.
8. On occasion ad-hoc scrutiny panels may also be established throughout the year to undertake additional investigations, for example to examine areas of work which overlap more than one scrutiny panel.

The panel also had a responsibility to address certain issues each year and these are presented below:

9. The scrutiny panel is also advised that, under the terms of the Local Government Act 2000, local authorities have a responsibility of community leadership and a power to secure the effective promotion of community well-being. Therefore, in addition to the scrutiny panel's generally recognised powers (of holding the Executive to account, reviewing service provision, developing policy, considering budget plans and performance and financial monitoring), panels also have the power to consider **any** matters which are not the responsibility of the Council but which affect the local authority **or** the inhabitants of its area. For example, nationally, local authorities have undertaken scrutiny work on issues such as post office closures, rural bus services, policing matters and flood defence schemes.

Updates

In respect of previous reviews, the Scrutiny Panel can request updates on the progress made with the implementation of Scrutiny recommendations. The Panel is yet to receive an initial update in respect of:

- Reducing Loneliness and/or Social Isolation in Later Life; and
- The LGB&T Community and Elderly Care.

Scrutiny work plan prioritisation aid

10. Members may wish to use the aid attached at **Appendix 1** to prioritise issues where scrutiny can make an impact, add value or contribute to policy development.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

11. The scrutiny panel is asked to consider and agree its work programme for the 2020/21 municipal year.
12. When considering its work programme, the scrutiny panel is asked to ensure that topics agreed for inclusion:
 - Affect a group of people living within the Middlesbrough area.
 - Relate to a service, event or issue in which the Council has a significant stake or over which the Council has an influence.
 - Are not issues which the Overview and Scrutiny Board or the scrutiny panels have considered during the last 12 months.
 - Do not relate to an individual service complaint; and
 - Do not relate to matters dealt with by another Council committee, unless the issue deals with procedure.
13. It is suggested that the scrutiny panel has a mixture of working styles in its programme. This can include detailed and in-depth reviews, shorter topics, or one-off investigations.
14. Once the scrutiny panel has identified the areas of priority, support staff will draw those topics into a programme for approval by the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

RECOMMENDATION

15. That the scrutiny panel identifies two topics it would like to include in its work programme for 2020/21, for consideration/approval by the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Throughout the report, reference is made to documents published by the Local Government Association, Department of Health and Social Care (2019) 'New Campaign to Recruit Adult Social Care Staff', Humphries, R. et al. (2016), 'Social Care for Older People: Home Truths' Kingsfund (2019), 'Enhanced Health and Wellbeing in Care Homes: Doing Things Differently' Local Government Association (2018) and 'Council Support: Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Unaccompanied Children',

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APPENDIX 1

