

16 SEPTEMBER 2015

SCRUTINY PROGRESS REPORT

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To update the position in respect of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) and scrutiny panels. The current position regarding progress made by the Board and each of the panels is set out below.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

2. Since the last Council update, the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) has met three times, on 28 July, 18 August and 7 September 2015.
3. The following matters were considered at the **28 July 2015** OSB meeting:
 - a) Attendance of Executive Member for Adult Health and Social Care - Councillor J Rostron, Executive Member for Adult Health and Social Care, attended the meeting to provide information on her portfolio area, aims, aspirations, objectives and priorities.
 - b) Final Report of the Health Scrutiny Panel - Future of GP Provision - A draft final report was considered and approved for submission to The Executive subject to the addition of two recommendations concerning improving opportunities for GP's to return to practice following a career break; and reviewing qualification requirements for health staff who are interested in re-training to become GPs.
 - c) Final Report of the Environment Scrutiny Panel - North Ormesby Market - The panel's final report was approved for submission to The Executive.
 - d) Scrutiny Work Programme 2015/16 - The scrutiny panels' work programmes were approved as submitted. It was also agreed that the Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Panel would examine verbal / physical abuse of staff; training for Councillors; the Council's use of consultants; city region; and selective landlord licensing.
 - e) Executive Forward Work Programme - OSB was informed of items included in the current programme.
4. The following matters were considered at the **18 August 2015** OSB meeting:
 - a) Capital Outturn 2014/15 - The position was noted.
 - b) Revenue Outturn 2014/15 - The position was noted.
 - c) Balanced Scorecards - Year End 2014/15 - The position was noted and the Board requested future progress reports in respect of reducing pupil exclusions.
 - d) Scrutiny Panels' Progress Reports - The updated position in respect of each panel was noted.

5. The **7 September 2015** OSB meeting was arranged to consider a 'call in' in respect of an Executive sub-Committee decision. The decision that was reviewed related to disposal of the TAD Centre, Middlesbrough.
6. Having considered the submitted information, OSB agreed that the decision would not be referred back to the decision maker. The decision of the Executive Sub-Committee will, therefore, now be implemented.

SCRUTINY PANEL UPDATES

7. The updated position in respect of the work of each of the Council's scrutiny panels is shown below.

Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel

8. The panel's investigation of Safeguarding and Children in Care has continued from the previous municipal year.
9. At its meeting on 5 August 2015, the panel was provided with:
 - A brief overview of the evidence submitted to the scrutiny panel in February 2015, including updates on the information previously conveyed.
 - An outline of Middlesbrough's children in care in terms of age, gender, ethnicity, religious or cultural background, disabilities, and the needs and challenges that this profile presents.
10. Following receipt of this evidence, the panel agreed the aim and terms of reference for the review. The panel's aim is to review the impact of services for children in care, both in terms of what is working well and any gaps and barriers, whilst ensuring the needs of each child are paramount. The agreed terms of reference reflect this.
11. The panel has also agreed:
 - To ask the Children in Care Council (CICC) to nominate appropriate representative/s as added members of the scrutiny panel for the duration of the review.
 - That a sub-group of the panel will meet with school-based representatives, to determine support provided to children in care.
12. At the time of writing, the next meeting of the scrutiny panel is scheduled to be held on 9 September 2015. That meeting will:
 - Examine how the local authority commissions services that reflect the needs of children in care.
 - Assess the quality of placements, how stable they are and whether they work well for children.

Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel

13. Since the last update report to Council the panel has met on two occasions, on 27 July and 27 August 2015.

14. At its meeting on 27 July, the Council's Community Safety Manager and the Operations Manager for South Tees Youth Offending Service were in attendance to provide the Panel with a setting the scene presentation on the topic of 'Reoffending and Rehabilitation - How does Middlesbrough Fare?'
15. Information was provided to the panel on a number of issues including:
- The current picture of adult reoffending in Middlesbrough.
 - The services currently available - including Integrated Offender Management (IOM), National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and MBC Troubled Families Programme.
 - Middlesbrough's response to anti-social behaviour.
 - Reducing first time entrants to the youth justice system.
 - The impact of triage and reducing the use of custody.
16. Data was also provided from the Ministry of Justice in relation to proven re-offending rates in Middlesbrough. The panel noted that the proportion of adult re-offenders in Middlesbrough currently stands at 33.1% and there was a 0.7% increase in re-offending between 2010 and 2011. The number of young people in the Youth Offending Service re-offending cohort has, however, reduced from 405 in 2008/09 to 100 in 2014/15, and is below the national average. The number of offences committed by young people has also reduced to 677 in 2014/15 compared with 1,911 in 2011.
17. At its meeting on 27th August the Panel received further evidence on the above review topic. The Chief Superintendent of Cleveland Police and the Head of Rehabilitation and Reoffending at Holme House Prison were in attendance at the meeting. Information was provided to the Panel on the work undertaken by the Integrated Offender Management Team with high profile and prolific offenders, as well as on the opportunities and support available in prison to help turn around the lives of offenders.

Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel

18. Since the last update to Council, the Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel has almost finalised its investigation of the topic of Middlehaven, which began in the previous municipal year. The panel's draft final report on this topic will be considered at its meeting on 10 September 2015, when Members will agree conclusions and recommendations. At the time of writing, that meeting has not yet taken place.
19. In addition to continuing its work on Middlehaven, and agreeing its work programme for 2015-16, at its 12 August 2015 meeting, the panel also received an update on the previous scrutiny topic of Acklam Hall. Members were advised of progress made in implementing the scrutiny panel's recommendations and in progressing the site's development.
20. The Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel's 10 September 2015 meeting is also scheduled to begin examination of the topic of supported bus services. Members will consider an overview of the current position.

Environment Scrutiny Panel

21. Since the last update report to Council the panel has met on two occasions, on 6 August and 3 September 2015.
22. At the 6 August meeting, the panel was provided with a setting the scene presentation on the topic of 'Education/Enforcement - Environmental Issues'.
23. Information was provided on a number of issues including:
 - An overview of the department's Fixed Penalty Enforcement Strategy.
 - The offences currently included in the Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) scheme.
 - Statistical data in respect of the number of FPNs issued by the Council in recent years
24. Members heard that Middlesbrough Council will allow an offender to redress a first offence on site. However, second or subsequent offences receive a FPN and repeat offences will result in tougher action. It was highlighted that in 2013/14 23 FPNs were issued for a range of environmental offences and in 2014/15 12 FPN's were issued. In addition there were 12 prosecutions in 2013/14 and 6 prosecutions in 2014/15.
25. At its meeting on 3 September the scrutiny panel received information in respect of the enforcement approach and number of FPNs issued by neighbouring local authorities. In addition the findings of a review undertaken by the Communities and Local Government Select Committee on litter and fly tipping in England were also presented.

Health Scrutiny Panel

26. The panel met on 14 July 2015 to receive its final evidence in respect of its review of Neurological Services, which had been carried over from the previous municipal year. The members of the panel also undertook a tour of The Gateway (a facility for people recovering from neurological conditions) and held a panel meeting there.
27. Members received an update from the Chief Executive of the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust at the meeting on 11 August 2015. This offered the panel the opportunity to ask questions about the Trust's current financial position, its action plan developed in response to the recent CQC (Care Quality Commission) inspection and details of progress against Monitor's action plan on Health Care Associated Infections. The Chief Executive discussed a number of areas with the panel which members will consider reviewing in the future including: hospital discharge; the Transformation Programme and how the Trust works with the Local Authority.
28. The panel met again on 1 September to receive information from the Director of Public Health on the recently completed Public Health Annual Report. The panel heard how the emphasis of this year's report is on mental health and emotional well-being. The panel agreed to consider this item again in 6 months' time to review progress.
29. The panel has also responded to the Department of Health's recent consultation on Public Health Budgets, stating its objection to the proposed cut in public health budgets by 6.2% across the board.

South Tees Health Scrutiny Joint Committee

30. The committee met on 16 July to receive an update on the IMProVE Programme. (Integrated management and Proactive Care for the Vulnerable and Elderly). The panel had responded to the South Tees CCG's proposals on the formal consultation to reorganise the way care is delivered in the South Tees area. The committee heard that the programme is being implemented in a phased approach and a number of actions have now been completed, including:

- The centralisation of stroke rehabilitation services to Redcar Primary Care Hospital.
- The closure of two minor injury services at East Cleveland and Guisborough Primary Care hospitals and consolidation on to one single site at Redcar Primary Care Hospital.
- The closure of Carter Bequest Hospital and the transfer of services within the community alongside the progression of an improved infrastructure.

31. The committee also received information about the forthcoming review of the Lifestore in Middlesbrough. The contract with the current provider, Pioneering Care Partnership is due to expire in March 2016, giving the CCG the opportunity to review its provision. Analysis showed that the majority of people using the store were from Middlesbrough and alternative ways of delivering the service more equitably across the South Tees area are being considered.

32. The CCG informed the committee of its intention to review Urgent Care. Members were told that the urgent care system is complex and the CCG wants to streamline and simplify it. In order to develop its strategy the CCG is beginning the process by holding detailed discussions with the public. It is anticipated that the CCG will be in a position to propose some options to the Joint Committee for a decision as to whether there would be a substantial change to Urgent Care services. Therefore it was agreed that further information would be presented at the Joint Committee's next meeting. Information was sent to all Members as to how they could complete the CCG's survey.

Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee

33. The committee met on 24 July 2015 to discuss the monitoring of the North East Ambulance Service and the work programme for the coming year.

North East Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

34. The committee met on 31 July 2015. It received a performance update from the Chief Executive of the North East Ambulance Service and discussed the work programme for the coming year. It was agreed that the committee would look at how to encourage people to use pharmacies for minor ailments.

Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel

35. At its 6 August 2015 meeting, the panel was provided with:

- An overview of the Care Act 2014 - including background information, the local authority's responsibilities and key issues.
- An outline of the implications for Adult Social Care.

- An overview of the work that has been undertaken to implement the care and support reforms in Middlesbrough and how the key requirements of the Care Act are being met.
36. The panel considered and noted the information on the new duties for local authorities, particularly the duty to promote wellbeing, the changed status for carers, independent personal budgets for self-funders and duties in relation to provider failure, which came into force on 1 April 2015. The panel also noted the new duties of local authorities, in respect of the funding provisions, which will come into force in April 2020.
37. An update on the Care Act, in respect of early intervention, Middlesbrough Matters, the cultural shift and the impact on communities, will be presented to the scrutiny panel at a later date.
38. The Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel's last meeting was held on 3 September 2015, when Members began to investigate Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHPs). The panel was provided with:
- An overview of the AMHP role, including duties and responsibilities.
 - An outline of how the local authority recruits AMHPs and how provision has changed over the years.
 - An overview of the implications if provision was to remain as it is.
 - An outline of the biggest challenges in respect of the recruitment and retention of AMHPs.
 - An outline of the local and national picture in respect of provision.
 - An overview of the methods that the authority has tried to reduce staff turnover.
39. Following receipt of information in respect of the above enquiries, the scrutiny panel agreed the aim and terms of reference for the review.
40. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 1 October 2015. At this meeting, it is envisaged that the panel will receive information on how much it would cost to increase the AMHP salary and how additional funding could be sourced to subsidise a salary increase.

SCRUTINY REPORTS SUBMITTED TO EXECUTIVE

41. Since the last update to Council, there have been no scrutiny reports considered by The Executive.

COUNCILLOR JEAN SHARROCKS

CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

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