

14 OCTOBER 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 has met once, on 15 September 2015. The following matters were considered at that meeting:
 - a) Attendance of Executive Member - Councillor C Rooney, Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Regeneration, attended the meeting to provide information on his areas of responsibility, portfolio, aims, aspirations, objectives and priorities.
 - b) Changes in Housing Demand in the Rented Sector - The Board received a presentation from local stakeholders, partners and Council officers in respect of this issue. It was agreed to revisit the subject in approximately six months' time.
3. As the meeting became inquorate, the remaining agenda items were deferred for consideration at the Board's 13 October 2015 meeting:
 - a) Balanced Scorecards - Quarter One 2015/16
 - b) Referring Reports from OSB to the Executive
 - c) Final Report of health Scrutiny Panel - Neurological Services
 - d) Executive Forward Work Programme
 - e) Scrutiny Panel Progress Reports - The updated position in respect of each panel was noted.
4. An update from the above meeting will be provided to the next Council meeting.

SCRUTINY PANEL UPDATES

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

Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel

6. The panel's investigation of Safeguarding and Children in Care has continued from the previous municipal year. A meeting was held on 9 September 2015. The purpose of the meeting was to consider evidence in respect of:
 - a) How the Local Authority commissions services that reflect the needs of children in care.

- b) The quality of placements, how stable they are and whether they work well for children.
7. Members were provided with information in respect of commissioning services, the quality of placements, budget pressures, the profile of children in care, maintaining relationships, the views of children in care and placement stability.
 8. The last meeting was held on 30 September 2015. At this meeting, the scrutiny panel considered evidence pertaining to how well children in care do at school, how this is monitored and whether there is sufficient support to raise aspirations and educational outcomes.
 9. Information was provided on Middlesbrough's Virtual School and educational attainment in 2014/15. Members heard that the virtual school approach is to work with children in care as if they were in a single school, liaising with the schools they attend, tracking the progress they make and supporting them to achieve as well as possible.
 10. The scrutiny panel heard that although, overall, Middlesbrough's children in care achieve broadly as well as children in care across the country, the gap between Middlesbrough's children in care and their peers - based in Middlesbrough's schools - remains. It was also conveyed that although it is currently less pronounced than in some years, the trend remains and the gap widens as children get older.
 11. On 30 September, Members also agreed the membership, purpose and remit of the panel's sub-group. The group has been established to meet with head teachers and/or designated teachers who champion the educational attainment of children in care. It is envisaged that secondary school visits will be undertaken in October/ early November 2015.

Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel

12. Since the last report to OSB, the Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel has met on one occasion on 14 September 2015.
13. At that meeting the Assistant Director of Safeguarding and Children's Care was in attendance alongside the Independent Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) to provide an update on the topic of Child Sexual Exploitation in Middlesbrough.
14. Information was provided to the Panel on a number of issues including:
 - Work undertaken by the Tees Strategic VEMT (Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing or Trafficked) Group.
 - Work undertaken to address risk and provide actions to support vulnerable children and young people in Middlesbrough.
 - Providing Information/Intelligence to Cleveland Police and the development of the Information Report Child Sexual Exploitation.
 - The number of young people assessed as being high risk in Middlesbrough and the number of young people regularly missing from home.
15. The Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board also advised that the Strategic VEMT and Tees LSCBs have also undertaken two publicity campaigns:
 - Say Something if you see something
 - In the wrong hands

16. The panel also heard that in respect of the cross governmental inquiry into CSE had concluded that there is clear acceptance of the challenge in Middlesbrough and practice that appears to be very positive.
17. An overview of the Council's response to the Prevent agenda was also presented. Following the presentation the Panel requested that an all Member seminar on the topic be arranged for all Members. The Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel will an all Member seminar on the topic of Prevent on 27 October 2015

Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel

18. Since the last update to Council, the Economic Regeneration and Transport (ERT) Scrutiny Panel has finalised its investigation of the topic of Middlehaven, which began in the previous municipal year. The panel's final report on this topic was approved at its 10 September 2015 meeting. The report will be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 13 October 2015.
19. At the 10 September 2015 meeting, the panel also considered a report on supported/subsidised bus services. Members heard an overview of the current position. It was explained that, with effect from 2016, Middlesbrough Council will no longer subsidise any local bus services. It was agreed to invite bus operators to a future meeting to discuss the position.
20. On 7 October 2015, the ERT Scrutiny Panel began to investigate the new subject of Albert Road regeneration. Members considered background information and will consider draft terms of reference at the panel's next meeting. Immediately prior to the meeting arrangements were made for Members to visit Middlehaven to view progress made in the area. Following discussions at OSB, an invitation to attend the visit was extended to all Members of the Council.

Environment Scrutiny Panel

21. Since the last report to OSB, the Environment Scrutiny Panel has met on one occasion on 17 September 2015. At that meeting the Head of Environmental Services was in attendance to provide the Panel with further information in respect of the panel's current review on the topic of the 'Education/Enforcement - Environmental Issues'.
22. Information was provided to the Panel on a number of issues including:
 - Statistical data on the number of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued by the Council over the period 2005-2015.
 - The FPNs issued by Directorate.
 - Other actions taken in response to environmental offences, including verbal and written warnings.
 - Statistical data on the number of FPNs paid and other outcomes.
23. Following receipt of the information above the Panel requested that a draft final report on the topic of 'Education/Enforcement - Environmental Issues' be drafted for consideration at the panel's next meeting.
24. At the time of writing this report the Panel is scheduled to meet on 8 October 2015 when the following will be considered:

- Draft Final Report - Education / Enforcement - Environmental Issues.
- Bereavement Services.
- Update - Maintenance of Open Spaces.

Health Scrutiny Panel

25. The panel met on 22 September 2015 to begin examination of a new topic - Health Inequalities and the Integration Agenda.
26. Members received a presentation from the Assistant Director, Public Health Intelligence which outlined the health inequalities in Middlesbrough, reminding Members that life expectancy reduces by 2 years for every mile from suburb to centre. As a result of the presentation, Members chose to focus their attention on two topics - Improving Levels of Breastfeeding and Cancer Screening.
27. The panel will be meeting on 15 October 2015 to further consider the issue of improving levels of breastfeeding in Middlesbrough.

South Tees Health Scrutiny Joint Committee

28. The committee is due to meet on 13 October 2015 to discuss the temporary changes to the breast radiology services at the James Cook University Hospital (JCUH). Due to issues with staffing, and the national shortage of specialist clinicians, the current staffing situation means it is not safe to continue to offer this service at JCUH. Patients from the Middlesbrough, Redcar and East Cleveland area will be accommodated at University Hospital North Tees. The committee will be discussing the implications of this with senior officers from the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and the South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).
29. Members will also receive an update on the CCG's review of Urgent Care. Members will receive further information on the findings from the recent engagement exercise and the next steps.
30. At the last meeting, Members heard about the consultation exercise regarding the Lifestore. The contract with the current provider, Pioneering Care Partnership was 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 were being considered. Members will receive information on the results of the recent consultation exercise.

North East Health Scrutiny Joint Committee

31. The committee met on 1 October 2015 to consider the following items:
- North East Ambulance Service - Progress Against Standards and Performance.
 - Patient Transport Update.
 - Review of Neonatal Services Across the North East.
 - National Congenital Heart Review.
 - Use of Pharmacies for Minor Ailments and Other Services.

Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel

32. The scrutiny panel's investigation of Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHPs) is ongoing. The last meeting was held on 1 October 2015. At that meeting, the panel received further information on the AMHP service.
33. Members were informed that the AMHP service delivers a complex range of statutory duties and is now struggling to provide an effective and efficient service due to staff retention/recruitment issues.
34. The panel discussed issues regarding administrative support, the recording/ monitoring of data and the historical issues in respect of the employment and retention of AMHPs, which are mainly due to remuneration. The scrutiny panel heard that the salary and supplement paid to Middlesbrough AMHPs is below that which is paid by other local authorities in the North East region.
35. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on 22 October 2015. At this meeting the panel will consider the content of the draft final report and receive data in respect of Tees Valley local authorities, including Darlington, in order to gain an insight into the demand experienced by neighbouring authorities and their current AMHP provision.

SCRUTINY REPORTS SUBMITTED TO EXECUTIVE

36. Since the last update to Council, the following scrutiny reports have been considered by The Executive.
 - Environment Scrutiny Panel - North Ormesby Market.
 - Health Scrutiny Panel - Future of GP Provision in Middlesbrough.
37. Both of the above reports, and associated recommendations, were approved.

COUNCILLOR JEAN SHARROCKS

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