

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 7

COUNCIL

25 NOVEMBER 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 twice, on 13 October and 9 November 2015. The following matters were considered at the **13 October** meeting:
 - a) Attendance of Executive Member - Councillor T Harvey, Executive Member for Environment.
 - b) Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board - Update.
 - c) Scrutiny and the Voluntary and Community Sector.
 - d) Revenue Budget - First Review - 2015/16.
 - e) Balanced Scorecards - Quarter One 2015/16.
 - f) Referring Reports from OSB to the Executive.
 - g) Final Report of Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel - Middlehaven Regeneration.
 - h) Final Report of Health Scrutiny Panel - Neurological Services.
 - i) Executive Feedback.
 - j) Executive Forward Work Programme.
 - k) Scrutiny Panel Progress Reports.
3. The following matters were considered at the **9 November 2015** meeting:
 - a) Attendance of Executive Member - Councillor N Walker, Executive Member for Finance and Governance.
 - b) Review of Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Call for Evidence.
 - c) Final Report of Environment Scrutiny Panel - Education/Enforcement - Environmental Issues.

- d) Final Report of Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel - Provision of Approved Mental Health Professionals.
- e) Scrutiny Panel Progress Reports.

SCRUTINY PANEL UPDATES

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

Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel

5. The scrutiny panel continues to gather evidence in respect of its current review of Safeguarding and Children in Care. A meeting of the scrutiny panel was held on 21 October 2015. The purpose of the meeting was to consider evidence in respect of how the Local Authority:

- Promotes the physical, emotional and mental health of children in care.
- Acts on any early signs of health issues.

6. The meeting was scheduled to facilitate a roundtable discussion with various representatives from the Local Authority, the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and the South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group.
7. At the meeting, the scrutiny panel considered evidence on the systems and processes which track and focus on meeting each child's physical, emotional and mental health needs. Members also received information on the support, universal services and targeted/specialist services that can be accessed by children in care.
8. In advance of the meeting, the Chair of the Children in Care Council (CICC) provided positive feedback on the support available for children in care, especially that which is provided by the Specialist Nurse for Looked After Children. The Chair of the CICC conveyed that this support is fundamental and crucial in promoting the health and wellbeing of children in care.
9. The last meeting was held on 11 November 2015. At this meeting the scrutiny panel received evidence in respect of the Local Authority's adoption processes and fostering arrangements.
10. On Wednesday 4 November, the scrutiny panel's sub-group visited Kings Academy, Trinity Catholic College and Macmillan Academy. The purpose of the visits was to examine the support that each school provides to raise the aspirations and educational outcomes of children in care. The findings of the sub-group will be reported to the scrutiny panel.

Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel

11. Since the last report to Council, the Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel has met on two occasions, on 26 October and 16 November 2015.
12. At the meeting on the 26 October Members were provided with the opportunity to complete the Channel training package in respect of the Prevent agenda. The meeting also provided the opportunity to give consideration to any issue the panel wished to raise, in advance of the Prevent seminar, which was held on 27 October 2015.

13. The Seminar provided an opportunity for all Members to hear directly from the Police, the Local Authority, the Local Children's Safeguarding Board and Schools on the work undertaken locally in response to the Prevent Agenda.
14. At its meeting on the 16 November the panel focused on its current review topic of Re-offending and Rehabilitation – How does Middlesbrough fare? The Chief Executive and Head of Offender Services at Durham Tees Valley (DTV) Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) were in attendance.
15. Information was provided to the Panel on a number of issues including:
- An overview of the role and responsibilities of Durham Tees Valley (DTV) Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)
 - Reoffending rates in Middlesbrough
 - The measures in place to assess reductions in reoffending
 - The approach adopted by the DTV CRC to 'do the right thing' - investing in the Integrated Offender Management (IOS) scheme, 'through the gate' programme and Community Hub model.
 - The Peer Support offer currently available to ex-offenders in Middlesbrough.
16. The panel also received its annual update on the Local Authority's use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA).

Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel

17. Since the last update to Council, the Economic Regeneration and Transport (ERT) Scrutiny Panel has begun to investigate the new subject of Albert Road regeneration. The panel has agreed terms of reference for its investigation and considered further information on the topic in respect of:
- Regeneration of areas including Baker and Bedford Streets.
 - Improvements in respect of paving, lighting and carriageway works.
 - Town centre support and initiatives - such as business rate relief, rates incentives, mentoring and empty shop refit incentives.
18. The panel's next meeting is scheduled for 18 November 2015, when further information will be considered on the above topic. This will include the position in respect of empty properties, in particular exemptions/payment of national non-domestic rates (NNDR) in respect of such properties.

Environment Scrutiny Panel

19. Since the last report to Council, the Environment Scrutiny Panel has met on two occasions on 8 and 29 October 2015. At its meeting on the 8 October 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'.

20. At the meeting held on 8 October, a report was presented to provide an update on Bereavement Services and to highlight some key issues for consideration. The Council is currently reviewing its Bereavement Service functions and information on the core elements of the service areas, which will be considered as part of this review were highlighted.
21. On 8 October, the panel also agreed the content of its final report on the topic of 'Education/Enforcement – Environmental Issues'. The report was subsequently approved by OSB on 13 November. The final item considered on 8 October was an update on the panel's previous review Maintenance of Open Spaces.
22. At its meeting on 29 October, the Director of Middlesbrough Environment City was in attendance to provide the panel with an overview of the work undertaken by Environment City in Middlesbrough. The panel also agreed how it wished to proceed with its investigation of Bereavement Services. A site visit to Linthorpe Cemetery, Acklam Cemetery, Teesside Crematorium and Kirkleatham Crematorium and Memorial Gardens has been arranged as part of the review.

Health Scrutiny Panel

23. The panel met on 15 October 2015 to continue its review on the topic Health Inequalities and in particular, improving levels of breastfeeding in Middlesbrough. Members met with senior midwives, health care professionals and Teesside University. On 15 December 2015 the panel will have a conversation with the key decision makers, including the Mayor and senior health representatives, about some of the proposed areas where Members would like to make recommendations (in advance of producing a final report).
24. At the panel's next meeting on 24 November, Members will be looking at the second strand of their review into Health Inequalities, Cancer Screening and Reducing Cancer-Related Deaths. Members will receive an overview of the current picture in Middlesbrough, causes, trends and patterns.

South Tees Health Scrutiny Joint Committee

25. The committee met on 13 October 2015 to discuss the temporary changes to the breast radiology services at the James Cook University Hospital (JCUH). The committee discussed the implications of this with senior officers from the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and the South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). In light of the evidence received, Members agreed to hold a dedicated meeting on this topic with representatives and clinicians from North and South Tees, this will take place on 11 December 2015.
26. The Committee is due to meet on 17 November 2015 to receive further information on the CCG's review of Urgent Care. Members will be considering if the proposals constitute a substantial variation to current services and therefore whether it would need to go to a formal consultation process.

27. The Committee will be meeting again on 18 December 2015 to receive further information in respect of Urgent Care and also details of the updated position on the Life Store.

Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee

28. The panel met on 14 October and received an update from the North East Ambulance Services on their quarterly monitoring report. Information was also received on the North of England Regional Back Pain Programme and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services review.

North East Health Scrutiny Joint Committee

29. The committee will be meeting on 17 December 2015 where it will be considering further information in respect of the review of Neonatal Services Across the North East.

Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel

30. The final evidence gathering session in respect of the panel's review of The Provision of Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHPs), was held on 22 October 2015. The scrutiny panel received data and information in respect of the Tees Valley local authorities, including Darlington, in order to gain an insight into the demand experienced by neighbouring authorities and their current AMHP provision.

31. A draft final report was prepared for the 22 October meeting, which summarised the information gathered and highlighted the issues explored in considering the terms of reference. The scrutiny panel considered the draft report and discussed, determined and agreed appropriate conclusions and recommendations. The final report was approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 9 November 2015 and will now be submitted to The Executive.

32. At the scrutiny panel's last meeting, held on 12 November 2015, Members received an update/overview of the progress made with the implementation of the agreed recommendations/actions in respect of the panel's 2014 final report on Discharge from Hospital - Support Provided by Social Care.

SCRUTINY REPORTS SUBMITTED TO EXECUTIVE

33. Since the last update to Council, there have been no final reports from scrutiny panels submitted to The Executive.

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