

6 JANUARY 2016

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 8 December 2015. The following matters were considered:
 - a) Attendance of Executive Member - Councillor J Brunton - Executive Member for Education and Skills.
 - b) Scrutiny and the Voluntary and Community Sector.
 - c) Balanced Scorecards - Quarter Two 2015/16.
 - d) First Capital Monitoring Review 2015/16.
 - e) Revenue Budget - Second Review - 2015/16.
 - f) Executive Forward Work Programme.
 - g) Scrutiny Panel Progress Reports.

SCRUTINY PANEL UPDATES

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

Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel

4. The scrutiny panel continues to gather evidence in respect of its current review of Safeguarding and Children in Care.
5. At the next meeting, scheduled to be held on 13 January 2016, the scrutiny panel will consider evidence in respect of:
 - The quality and standard of residential care provided/used by the Local Authority.
 - The range of support that the Local Authority provides to assist young people leaving care with the transition to independent living.
6. The appropriate officers from the Department of Wellbeing, Care and Learning will be in attendance at the meeting.

7. In respect of residential care, the scrutiny panel will receive information on:
- The profile of children placed in residential care.
 - The residential placements used by the Local Authority, their Ofsted ratings and the findings/outcomes of Local Authority inspections.
 - The number of children currently placed in residential care, where they've been placed and the associated costs.
 - The outcomes of children in residential care compared to the rest of the Local Authority's children in care.
 - How the Local Authority's use of residential care compares to other similar authorities.
 - How the experiences of children and young people, in residential care, are monitored and managed.
 - The views and experiences of children and young people living in residential care.
 - How complaints about the standards of care in residential homes are dealt with and the issues that have been raised.
8. In respect of support for young people leaving care, Members will receive information on:
- The number of care leavers who remain in touch with the Local Authority.
 - The outcomes of children who were formerly in the Local Authority's care.
 - The support that care leavers receive.
 - The information available for young people leaving care.
 - What care leavers say about their experience of leaving care and the support that is/was provided.
 - The assessments and support available for disabled young people - to ensure a successful transition to adult services.
9. At the meeting, the scrutiny panel will also consider evidence in respect of Middlesbrough's secondary schools and the support provided to raise the aspirations and educational outcomes of children in care.

Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel

10. The Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel's investigation into Reoffending and Rehabilitation – How does Middlesbrough fare? is ongoing. The panel has agreed terms of reference for its investigation and received information on:
- The profile of high risk offenders in Middlesbrough
 - The measures in place to assess reductions in reoffending rates
 - The peer support / family support services provided to high risk offenders
 - The greatest challenge facing the National Probation Service in the Tees Valley
11. At its meeting on 21 December, 2015 the panel also received a copy of the Teesside Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Annual Report 2014-15. The report highlights the key achievements of MAPPA in 2014 /15 alongside the priorities for 2015/16.

12. An update on the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 was provided to the panel. Cleveland Police's Restorative Justice Co-ordinator was in attendance at the meeting and provided information on the implementation of the Community Remedy.

Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel

13. The Economic Regeneration and Transport (ERT) Scrutiny Panel's investigation of Albert Road regeneration is ongoing. 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.
- Empty properties, in particular exemptions/payment of national non-domestic rates (NNDR) in respect of such properties.

14. At its meeting held on 17 December 2015, the scrutiny panel heard from a representative of a local property developer that owns several Albert Road properties. Information was submitted on the company's various properties and its plans for the future.

15. Members also discussed how best the Council could work with third parties in the future to secure improvements in Albert Road.

16. It is envisaged that a draft final report on Albert Road regeneration will be submitted to the Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel's January 2016 meeting.

Environment Scrutiny Panel

17. Since the last report to Council, the Environment Scrutiny Panel has met on one occasion on the 17 December 2015.

18. At that meeting, the panel received an update in respect of North Ormesby Market. Ann Bayley, the Chair of North Ormesby Neighbourhood Development Trust (NONDET) was in attendance at the meeting to respond to queries from the panel in respect of the transfer of the management of North Ormesby Market to NONDET.

19. Further information was also received by the panel with regard to its current review on the topic of Bereavement Services. Following a recent visit to Linthorpe Cemetery, Kirkleatham Crematorium - Memorial Gardens and Teesside Crematorium information relating to the 2015/16 fees and charges for burial and cremation services provided by the Council were provided to the panel. Comparative information from Hartlepool Borough Council and Stockton Borough Council was also presented.

20. A case study into controlling the cost of funerals – the Cardiff Council Funeral Service and an extract from the Cardiff City Council's Bereavement Services Strategy for the Future 2015 – 2025 was also presented. An invitation is to be extended to local Funeral Directors to attend the panel's next meeting on 7 January 2016 and the panel determined the specific issues it wishes to discuss with those invitees.

Health Scrutiny Panel

21. The panel met on 24 November, Members began looking at the second strand of their review into Health Inequalities, Cancer Screening and Reducing Cancer - Related Deaths. Members received an overview of the current picture in Middlesbrough including the main causes of cancer, trends and patterns.
22. The panel also met on 15 December to discuss a number of areas with key decision makers (including the Mayor) in relation to their review of improving levels of breastfeeding in Middlesbrough. Members discussed some of the proposed areas the panel wanted to make recommendations on. Including how the Council can make front-facing buildings and community hubs breastfeeding friendly. A letter will be sent to the South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) with an outline of the recommendations.
23. The panel will meet again on 12 January to resume their evidence gathering in relation to cancer screening and consider how rates of screening take up can be improved between the least deprived and most deprived wards.

South Tees Health Scrutiny Joint Committee

24. The committee met on 17 November 2015 to receive further information on the CCG's review of Urgent Care. Members agreed that the proposals constituted a substantial variation to current services and therefore subject to a formal consultation process. The Committee will be meeting again on 18 December 2015 to receive further information in respect the Urgent Care consultation programme and also details of the updated position on the Life Store.
25. The committee met on 11 December to receive further information about the temporary closure of the breast radiology department at James Cook University Hospital. The closure is providing the opportunity for the trusts to look at an alternative model of service delivery for which the committee will be kept informed. A report is being prepared and letters will be sent to the Chief Executives of the trusts involved, local MPs, the MEP and the Secretary of State.

North East Health Scrutiny Joint Committee

26. The committee met on 17 December 2015 where it considered further information in respect of the review of Neonatal Services across the North East, the Committee had agreed that the changes to the services (which include neo-natal departments in Newcastle, Sunderland, North Tees and James Cook University Hospital) should be considered as a substantial development/variation.

Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel

27. The last meeting of the scrutiny panel was held on 10 December 2015. At the meeting, the panel received an introduction in respect of its new topic – Prevention Services in Adult Social Care.

28. At the meeting, information was presented on the initial work that has been undertaken as part of the transformation programme for adult social care. In respect of the transformation programme, the panel received a general overview of the Prevention and Independence work stream that focuses on facilitating community based services and signposting to these alternatives - to promote health and wellbeing, prevent or limit deterioration and support recovery following a period of crisis.

29. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on 7 January 2016. At the meeting, the Director of Public Health and Assistant Director for Social Care will be in attendance to provide the scrutiny panel with:

- An outline of the prevention strategy and how it encompasses all services accessed by the local community.
- In respect of adult social care (and health where services overlap):
 - An overview of existing preventative provision, gaps in current provision and the level of resources invested.
 - Information on the range of prevention services, facilities and resources currently available in Middlesbrough, including - falls prevention, telecare, adaptations etc.

SCRUTINY REPORTS SUBMITTED TO EXECUTIVE

30. Since the last update to Council, the following scrutiny panel reports have been submitted to, and approved by, The Executive:

- Final report of the Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel - Middlehaven.
- Final report of the Health Scrutiny Panel - Neurological Services.

COUNCILLOR JEAN SHARROCKS

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