

**17 FEBRUARY 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 twice on 5 January and 2 February.
3. The following matters were considered on 5 January:
  - a) Attendance of Executive Member – Cllr M Carr – Lead Executive Member – Children's Services
  - b) Feedback from Executive – 1 December
  - c) Executive Work Programme
  - d) Scrutiny Panels' Progress Reports
4. The following matters were considered on 2 February:
  - a) Attendance of the Elected Mayor – Mr D Budd
  - b) Final Report of the Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel – Albert Road Regeneration
  - c) Final Report of the Health Scrutiny Panel – Health Inequalities – Improving Levels of Breastfeeding in Middlesbrough
  - d) Feedback from the Executive – 19 January
  - e) Executive Forward Work Programme
  - f) Scrutiny Panels' Progress Reports

**SCRUTINY PANEL UPDATES**

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

**Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel**

6. An Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel has been established to undertake a review in respect of the Council's use of consultants. At its last meeting on 5 January 2016 the scrutiny panel received an introduction/overview of the new topic. As a result of discussions at that meeting, terms of reference were developed, as follows:

- a) To investigate the process of how consultants are engaged and for what projects/service areas.
- b) To examine the level of consultant usage in the Council and the costs involved.
- c) To consider how projects involving consultants are managed and objectives achieved.
- d) To examine work that is being undertaken by the North East Purchasing Organisation (NEPO) in respect of the use of consultants by local authorities regionally.

### **Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel**

7. The scrutiny panel continues to gather evidence in respect of its current review of Safeguarding and Children in Care.
8. A meeting was held on 13 January 2016, at the meeting the scrutiny panel considered 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.
9. At the meeting, the Assistant Director for Safeguarding and Children's Care and the Service Manager for Support and Development were in attendance to provide information on residential placements.
10. It was highlighted to the scrutiny panel that it is essential for the Local Authority to ensure that residential placements, for children and young people, deliver high-quality care at reasonable cost. However, it was explained that there are significant challenges related to this. Members heard that the Local Authority would hope to place all children and young people in homes that are rated as "Good", but there are significantly fewer residential placements available. It was conveyed that some homes are taking action to retain a "Good" or better rating by reducing the level of needs and risk of young people placed.
11. It was conveyed that the Local Authority is currently working with Darlington, Stockton, Hartlepool and Redcar in developing a Tees Valley Residential Framework Contract, which will commence from 1 April 2016. The scrutiny panel heard that this will enable the authorities to control price, and improve quality, with all providers that successfully apply for the framework. Members were also informed that £400,000 has been identified to purchase and secure a property that will be used as a residential home for children with disabilities.
12. In respect of the support provided to care leavers - the Pathways Manager and a Personal Adviser for Stronger Families were also in attendance.
13. Members received information on the support that care leavers receive and the range of multi-agency staff co-located within the Pathways Team. It was conveyed to the scrutiny panel that the Pathways Team continues to offer care leavers with high-quality support and guidance - with the aim of ensuring young people have maximum opportunity to lead happy, healthy and fulfilling lives and make a positive contribution to their communities. It was explained, however, that the Pathways Team acknowledges that further work is required to ensure questionnaires are completed - to ascertain the views

of care leavers. Furthermore, there is a requirement to ensure that the feedback received is collated and analysed to improve service delivery.

14. In addition to the evidence detailed above, the scrutiny panel was presented with the sub-group's findings following site visits to Middlesbrough's secondary schools.
15. In respect of the site visits, the sub-group found that excellent specialist support is provided to children in care – not only in determining the personal and academic needs of students but also in establishing what is required to enable them to make expected progress and fulfil their potential.
16. Alongside this, the visits did highlight areas that would further improve support, these included - streamlining the Personal Education Plan (PEP) process, designated teachers working more closely with other schools and service providers and the commissioning of services to promote the emotional and social wellbeing of young people.
17. The scrutiny panel conveyed that - although a number of schools have already been visited - it is essential and of the utmost importance that the Sub-Group meets face-to-face with representatives from each and every secondary school in Middlesbrough. Therefore, further contact has been made with the remaining schools.
18. The last meeting was held on 3 February 2016. At the meeting the Head of Achievement presented an overview of the progress made so far with implementing the Post Ofsted Action Plan - in respect of the Local Authority's arrangements for supporting school improvement. The panel also received an outline of the impact that the plan has had - to date. Further updates will be submitted, to the scrutiny panel, in due course.

### **Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel**

19. The panel met on 18 January 2016 to receive an update in respect of the Alternative Delivery Model for Sport and Leisure Services. The Assistant Director for Environment, Property and Commercial Services informed the panel that the preferred outcome for the future delivery of sport and leisure services was to transfer them into an established leisure trust organisation, as was approved by the Executive on 9 December 2014.
20. It was clarified that the leisure facilities at the Southlands Centre, with the exception of the playing pitches, were not considered financially sustainable by any of the bidders. It was emphasised, however, that this does not represent a decision to close the business enterprise element of the venue. As stated in the Council's Strategic Plan 2015-18 the Southlands Centre is to be re-designated as a commercially-owned and operated business centre. The commencement of the leisure trust contract will come into effect on 1 April 2016.
21. The Community Safety Partnership Manager was in attendance at the meeting to provide an update on the current picture of crime and disorder in Middlesbrough. It was highlighted that the priorities 2016 – 17 are as follows: Work with partners to tackle violence in the town, enhance collaborative working with police in neighbourhoods to tackle crime and ASB, maximise the use of CCTV throughout the town, to continue to tackle Domestic Violence and use the Troubled Families approach to tackle high cost / complex vulnerable adults. It was evident to the panel that there have been significant changes / reductions resources over the last two years in all areas of public sector

provision including the Local Authority, Police and Probation and that crime and disorder in Middlesbrough is increasing.

22. The panel met on 8 February to agree the final report on Reoffending and Rehabilitation - How Does Middlesbrough Fare? The panel discussed all aspects of the report and highlighted areas where Middlesbrough is performing above the national average. The panel also recognised the significant changes that have taken place, over the last two years, in respect of offender management in the UK and the introduction of the Transforming Rehabilitation Reforms. The panel intends to receive annual update on this topic in an effort to assess the impact of the reforms in Middlesbrough.

### **Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel**

23. The panel's last meeting was held on 7 January 2016. At that meeting, the panel approved its final report on Albert Road Regeneration. The report has been approved by OSB and will be submitted to The Executive in due course.
24. The panel's meeting scheduled for 27 January 2016 to consider an update on the previous scrutiny topic of Gresham unfortunately had to be cancelled. This was because a report that was to be submitted to The Executive in January 2016, on the subject of Gresham, was deferred. The update on Gresham will now be submitted to the Economic Regeneration and Transport (ERT) Scrutiny Panel in due course.
25. At the panel's meeting on 18 February Members will receive an update in respect of their previous review on the Wi-fi Town.

### **Environment Scrutiny Panel**

26. The panel met on the 7 January 2016. At that meeting, the panel received information in respect of the Work and Pensions Select Committee's current inquiry into 'funeral poverty' and 'affordable funerals'. Written evidence was considered by the panel in respect of the views expressed by a number of bodies including Kensington Citizen Advice Bureau, a Child Funeral Charity and Totnes Independent Funeral Service.
27. In addition the panel was also provided with examples of a range of Disbursement fees and funeral company changes, alongside a list of Local Authorities that offer Affordable Funeral Schemes. Members of the panel were in agreement that the Council should offer similar provision to residents in Middlesbrough.
28. On 10 January 2016 representatives from the panel met with the Manager of Relph's Funeral Directors in Middlesbrough to discuss a number of areas including how do funeral directors view the facilities and services offered by the Council? What investment in Teesside Crematorium would have the greatest impact in improving service provision? and what are the costs of a funeral in comparison to payments from the social fund? The final report will be presented to the panel's meeting on 11 February.
29. At the meeting on 11 February Members will also receive an update on the North Ormesby Market.

### **Health Scrutiny Panel**

30. The panel met on 12 January 2016, where Members received further evidence in their review of cancer screening and reducing cancer related deaths. The panel heard about the work streams that the Tackling Cancer Together Group was involved with. Including preventative work, awareness raising campaigns and development work in relation to awareness of screening.
31. Members also received a presentation from the South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) about their programmes to reduce health inequalities and reduce the gap in cancer related deaths between the least deprived wards and the most deprived wards. A project entitled 'The Deep End' involved 9 practices from the most deprived areas working together to achieve better services for patients and better support for GPs.
32. At the panel's meeting on 3 February Members received a presentation on the Better Health Programme, to ensure the panel's involvement with its on-going development. The Better Health Programme is a joint regional initiative, the focus of which is to examine acute hospital care and identify changes that might be required to achieve the desired standards of quality in hospital care across Darlington, Durham and Teesside. It is envisaged that a Joint Committee will be set up between the local authorities involved to enable that committee to respond to consultation should the programme recommend any substantial variation to local services.
33. The panel will resume its evidence gathering on cancer screening and reducing cancer related deaths on 23 February where they will meet with representatives from the Macmillan Integrated Care Project, which looks at end to end care, from pre-diagnosis to end of life and NHS England, who have been invited to discuss cancer screening in Middlesbrough.
34. The panel's final report on Health Inequalities – Improving levels of Breastfeeding is approved by OSB on 2 February and will be submitted to the Executive in due course.

### **South Tees Health Scrutiny Joint Committee**

35. The committee met on 18 December to receive further information in respect of Urgent Care, including details of the CCG's consultation timetable and also details of the updated position on the Life Store.
36. Members agreed that the Urgent Care proposals put forward by the CCG constituted a substantial variation of services and as such those plans should be subject to formal consultation. The committee will therefore be meeting on several occasions over February and March as part of that consultation process. Firstly meeting with a number of stakeholders to discuss the implications of the options put forward by the CCG and secondly, the meeting with the CCG to receive further information on the progress with their consultation process.
37. A press release has been issued on behalf of the committee to inform the public of the committee's work in relation to the statutory consultation and to inform them that the committee's meetings are open to the public.
38. An interim report has also been produced which will be distributed to the local MPs and the committee has invited them to attend future meetings about urgent care.

39. The committee have produced an interim report on their work relating to the temporary closure of the Breast Radiology Department in James Cook University Hospital. The report provides a number of actions for the Committee which include writing to the local MPs and the Chief Executives of the respective Trusts. Further meetings on this will be held in due course and the topic of the impact of the shortage of general radiologists has been added to the Committee's work programme.

### **Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee**

40. The committee met on 21 January 2016 where it considered the following issues:

- a) South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust CQC Inspection (the Health Scrutiny Panel considered this in August 2015).
- a) Child and Adolescent Mental Health Transformation Plan.
- b) Urgent Care Strategy – Consultation.
- c) Better Health Programme (the Health Scrutiny panel will also be considering this issue).
- d) Tees Esk and Wear Valley Quality Account – Update.
- e) North East Ambulance Services – Quarterly Monitoring Report.

### **Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel**

41. The scrutiny panel continues to gather evidence in respect of its current review of Prevention Services in Adult Social Care.

42. A meeting was held on 7 January 2016. At the meeting, the Assistant Director for Social Care, the Health Improvement Specialist and the Head of Public Health were 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 and gaps in current provision.

43. At the meeting, Members received:

- Further information in respect of the draft Prevention and Independence Work Programme, which focuses on supporting individuals to retain their independence, health and wellbeing - whilst offering low-level support and short-term interventions, at any stage of the care pathway.
- An outline of the work that's been undertaken to develop the social prescribing approach. The approach seeks to improve health by tackling patients' social and physical wellbeing. It was explained that the Local Authority will progress this model by developing a Health and Wellbeing Hub. The hub will provide a range of behaviour-change interventions, access to wellbeing services, assessment, support and advice. The hub will provide an enhanced offer for clients with complex needs, requiring a pathway of support, by providing access to all providers. The timescale for completion of the hub, and the transition of services, is between July and September 2016.
- Information on the South Tees Single Point of Access (SPA), which is being developed for adult health and social care. The aim of the SPA is to develop a 'one-stop-shop' for adult services across South Tees. This will enable key stakeholders to

access one contact number, which will record essential information from which referrals can be made to existing services. The aim is to ensure that the right service is delivered at the right time.

- An overview of the mapping exercise of preventative provision, including statutory and external support services. The aim of the mapping exercise was to inform the development of the prevention and early intervention model and establish a complete directory of current prevention services. The mapping exercise revealed that there are gaps in information, particularly in relation to the Voluntary Community Sector (VCS), hubs and external providers.

44. Members were advised that the pathways, between social care and the range of services in existence, need to be strengthened and more coordinated.

45. The last meeting was held on 4 February 2016. At the meeting, the scrutiny panel received information on the broad range of statutory-led prevention services, facilities and resources currently available in Middlesbrough, including:

- Reablement
- Intermediate care
- The management of long-term conditions
- Falls prevention
- Telecare
- Major and minor adaptations.

#### **SCRUTINY REPORTS SUBMITTED TO EXECUTIVE**

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

- Final report of the Environment Scrutiny Panel – Education, Enforcement and Environmental Issues
- Final report of the Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel – The Provision of Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHPs)

**COUNCILLOR JEAN SHARROCKS**

**CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

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