

# MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

## AGENDA ITEM 5

### HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

7 NOVEMBER 2013

#### OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD UPDATE

#### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To ensure that Scrutiny Panel Members are aware of what took place at the last meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

2. The following matters were discussed at the 15 October 2013 meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB):

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION/COMMENTARY
<b>Attendance of Executive Members – Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health</b>	<p>Councillor J Rostron, Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, attended the meeting to provide the Overview and Scrutiny Board with information on her portfolio area, aims, aspirations, objectives and priorities.</p> <p>The following issues were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The responsibilities that are now included in the portfolio.</li><li>• Public Health Issues – including smoking and the prevalence of take-aways in the town, drug and alcohol addiction, health eating and food sustainability</li><li>• Involvement with the Older Persons' Partnership, Middlesbrough First and Middlesbrough Environment City</li><li>• Rationalisation of building including moving the Deaf Centre.</li><li>• Links with the voluntary sector and how the Council signposts service users to voluntary sector organisations</li></ul>

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION/COMMENTARY
Executive Forward Work Programme	<p>The purpose of the report was to provide the Board with information on the items contained within the Executive Forward Work Programme.</p> <p>The Board noted the report.</p>
Safeguarding Vulnerable Children – Budget and Service Pressures	<p>The Board wanted an update on the predicted future budget pressures and information about the measures that were in place to address those issues and ensure that there was adequate budget provision without resorting to contingencies.</p> <p>The Board heard about the measures that had been put in place to reduce costs in this area including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increasing in-house fostering</li> <li>- Reducing the costs of external placements</li> <li>- Increasing capacity in the Five Rivers Children’s Homes</li> <li>- New contracting arrangements for dedicated residential beds</li> <li>- Developing pilot programmes for alternatives to care</li> </ul> <p>The Board was interested social workers’ caseloads and how manageable they were.</p> <p>It was noted that many other agencies do not go and visit children in their own homes and therefore do not see the conditions that some children live in and they effectively ‘slip through the net’</p>
2013/14 Revenue Budget Projected Outturn Update	<p>The Board was appraised of the key areas of spending for each department. Overall the projected outturn for the Council was showing a pressure on financial resources and significant pressures within services.</p>
Child Poverty, Deprivation and Attainment	<p>The Chair of the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel presented the final report into the panel’s investigation of child poverty, deprivation and attainment and highlighted the key findings including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Middlesbrough is the 3 highest authority for levels of child poverty (34%)</li> <li>- In Thorntree 61% of children are in poverty</li> <li>- Public perceptions of poverty can often be myths, 59% of poor children live in homes where at least one adult works and 57% of children lived in a house with a couple.</li> <li>- The impact of child poverty was far reaching, including emotional and medical problems, poor progression, shorter life expectancy, risk of social care intervention.</li> </ul> <p>The Board approved the report and its recommendations</p>
Out of Hours – Panel Findings	<p>The report gave the Board an update following the Health Panel’s consideration of the Out of Hours Service.</p>

	<p>The panel heard from Northern Doctors Urgent Care and the South Tees CCG about improvements to the service including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- paramedic support line</li> <li>- special patient notes</li> <li>- access to GP patient records</li> </ul> <p>The Health Panel agreed to revisit this topic with particular referent to the development of the new contract for the Out of Ours provider in 2016.</p>
Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel – Paperless Committee Meetings	<p>The Senior Resources Officer gave the Board an update on the progress of recommendations from the investigation on paperless committee meetings.</p>
Scrutiny Review - Request	<p>The Board considered and agreed to investigate a topic submitted by a member of the public which was to look at the use of land for housing, as opposed to commercial and industrial usage, and consider if the town’s economy was sustainable.</p>
Scrutiny Panel Progress Reports	<p>The Board considered an update on the work of each of the Council’s scrutiny panels.</p>

**COUNCILLOR EDDIE DRYDEN**  
**CHAIR OF HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL**

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- Agenda and papers of the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting of 17 September 2013.

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