

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

A meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board was held on 21 August 2012.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Brunton (Chair), Councillors Arundale, Junier (as substitute for Councillor Dryden), Harvey, McIntyre, P Purvis, Sanderson, J Sharrocks (as substitute for Councillor Cole) and J A Walker and Williams.

**OFFICERS:** J Bennington, S Brown, P Clark, A Crawford and J Ord.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were submitted on behalf of Councillors Cole, Dryden, C Hobson and Mawston.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest made at this point of the meeting.

**MINUTES - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

The minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 24 July 2012 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

**EXECUTIVE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

As part of the Board's remit in terms of holding the Executive to account a report of the Executive Office Manager was submitted which identified the forthcoming issues to be considered by the Executive as outlined in Appendix A of the report submitted.

Following Members' requests it was agreed that further information would be provided in respect of the following:-

(a) composition of Safety Advisory Group;

(b) timescale for considering the future direction of the current scheme of Abandoned Shopping and Luggage Trolley Scheme;

(c) timescale as to when information would be available including details of boundaries regarding the designation of a new Conservation Area in relation to Albert Park and Linthorpe Road.

**ORDERED** as follows:-

1. That the information provided be noted.
2. That further information be provided in respect of the items listed (a) to (c) above.

**FEEDBACK FROM EXECUTIVE 17 JULY 2012**

As part of the scrutiny process and in a report of the Executive Office Manager it was reported that the Executive had considered the findings of a Final Report of the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel regarding Substance Misuse among Parents and Carers.

The Executive and the Corporate Management Team had considered and supported the Service Responses.

The Board was advised of progress being made regarding the implementation of a Joint Local Protocol and informed that an update report would be submitted to the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel in September 2012.

**NOTED AND APPROVED**

**EXPERIENCE OF VULNERABLE OLDER PEOPLE IN HEALTHCARE SETTINGS**

The Vice-Chair of the Health Scrutiny Panel outlined the Panel's findings, conclusions and recommendations following a scrutiny investigation into the Experience of Vulnerable Older People in Healthcare Settings.

The Board considered the following recommendations of the Panel based on the submitted evidence:-

(i) That a detailed strategy should be developed by the local health and social care economy which outlines how it will tackle the challenge of improving the quality of health outcomes of the ever increasing numbers of vulnerable older people, as well as dealing with tighter financial parameters. It should articulate how closer partnerships are being employed in practice to improve service reconfiguration or responsiveness. This should be used as the key document in driving efforts to meet what is a significant challenge. It should also include some measures/metrics to judge how successful the local health and social care economy has been in meeting this challenge. The Panel would be happy to be involved in this document's preparation and review.

(ii) That a detailed document be prepared by the local health and social care economy outlining how virtual wards, and more effective community services, will reduce the number of vulnerable older people entering the acute environment, or at least reduce their length of stay. Included in that document should be reference to how virtual wards and community services will be developed, including reference to amount of investment and amount of staff. It should also set out when people can expect such developments to be coming on stream. The Panel is encouraged by the idea's potential, although at this stage it is not clear what it is or how its success will be judged.

(iii) The Panel would like to see work progressed to increase the capacity of the psychiatry liaison service, currently based at James Cook University Hospital. At the very least, the current service should be explicitly secured. The Panel considers that to reduce the services' coverage would be false economy, given the demographic pressures facing the Town.

Members sought clarification on a number of areas including the establishment of Virtual Wards involving the managing of appropriate patients in the community usually those with long term complex medical needs. It was acknowledged that given medical advances there was an increasing number of conditions for which patients did not necessarily have to be treated in an acute setting and with appropriate medical support would benefit from being in familiar surroundings in the home/community. In discussing the current funding arrangements it was confirmed that the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust was also responsible for the provision of community services.

**ORDERED** that the findings and recommendations of the Health Scrutiny Panel be endorsed and referred to the Executive.

**SCRUTINY REVIEW REQUESTS**

It was confirmed that no requests for scrutiny reviews had been received from the Executive, Executive Members, Non- Executive Members and members of the public since the last meeting of the Board.

Further to the meeting of the Board held on 24 July 2012 the Chair confirmed the intention to set up the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel in order to undertake a scrutiny investigation into 'No Paper Council'.

**NOTED AND APPROVED**

**SCRUTINY PANELS - PROGRESS REPORTS**

A report of the Chair of each Scrutiny Panel was submitted which outlined progress on current activities.

**NOTED**

**CALL-IN REQUESTS**

It was confirmed that no requests had been received to call-in a decision.

**NOTED**

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS - SCRUTINY PROCESS**

The Chair referred to the Council's overall budget process and the intention to hold an additional meeting of the Board in early February 2013 further details of which would be provided once confirmed.

Given the current economic climate reference was made to the likely change of focus within existing scrutiny work programmes in order to examine the impact of budget issues on certain Council policies and service delivery.

It was confirmed that as part of the arrangements of holding the Executive to account a programme was being prepared for individual Members of the Executive to attend meetings of the Board in order to present information on their objectives, priorities, emerging issues and pressures in relation to their portfolio and to respond to Members' questions on such areas.

**NOTED**