

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM: 11

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

2nd JULY 2013

Work Programme for 2013 -14

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To inform Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board of the progress made by the various scrutiny panels in considering the work programme for 2013/14.

PROPOSALS FROM THE PANELS

2. The following presents the proposals from the individual panels who have met in advance of this meeting and are presented for the Board's consideration.
3. Those panels, which are scheduled to meet following the distribution of this meetings agenda, will present their proposed work programme to the Board verbally.

CHILDREN AND LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL

4. The panel met on 12 June 2013 to consider and agree a range of suitable topics for inclusion in the work programme. The topics that the panel wishes to examine are detailed below:
 - Employability skills - care to work pathways for children in care
 - Family approach to children's services - reducing the demand on social care
 - Planning for SEN children - reducing the expenditure on SEN based services in light of new legislation
 - Education of children looked after in children's homes/supporting care leavers
 - Young people's participation in delivering Council services
 - BME foster carers
 - Teenage pregnancy rates

COMMUNITY SAFETY & LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL

5. The panel met on 19 June 2013 to consider and agree a range of suitable topics for inclusion in the work programme. The topics that the panel wishes to examine are detailed below:

- Police Horses - Retention or Removal (Police Commissioner)
- Prisoners placements - Day release for community service
- Crime Data – harmonisation of data and availability (SMP)
- Dangerous Dogs – Is it a growing problem in Middlesbrough
- Exploitation of children -
- Tackling Obesity in Children – leisure contribution
- Repeat Offending - Police Action to reduce

MIDDLESBROUGH HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

6 The panel met on 12 June 2013 to consider and agree a range of suitable topics for inclusion in the work programme. The topics that the panel wishes to examine are detailed below:

- **Mental health services capacity** – The Panel to explore whether this current service configuration remains the best for the challenges faced by Mental Health services today, and the extent to which local people are placed in out of area placements.
- **Winter pressures** – To consider how the local healthcare system is preparing for the 2013/4 winter period. Following its consideration of the preparations for 2013/14 winter period, it is suggested that the Panel may also wish to track the winter period closely.
- **Patient transport to hospital** – To consider current and anticipated demand for services, as well as current service capacity.
- **Quality standards in the Independent sector** – To investigate how NHS Commissioners assure themselves that the quality and safety of services commissioned from the independent sector.
- **Healthcare Associated Infections** – The Panel receives periodic updates on this topic and it is suggested that this continues during 2013/14. It is suggested that this is important for the Panel to assure itself of how JCUH is performing in relation to Healthcare Associated Infections.
- **NHS Finances** – How the local NHS will deal with ever-tightening NHS Financial picture
- Neurological Services - a revisit of the Panel's final report.

TEES VALLEY HEALTH SCRUTINY JOINT COMMITTEE

- 7 The committee is expected to be meeting soon to establish its annual work programme. In accordance with the agreed rotation the Chair for the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Committee for 2013 -14 is Stockton.
- 8 Its work programme for the year will be reported to Overview & Scrutiny Board as soon as possible.

SOUTH OF TEES HEALTH SCRUTINY JOINT COMMITTEE

- 9 The committee is expected to meet in July 2013 to establish its work programme for the year, which will be reported to Overview & Scrutiny Board as soon as possible.

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL

- 10 The panel met on the 17th June 2013 and determined the following subjects for submission to the Overview and Scrutiny Board:
 - Borough Becks
 - Revised Domestic Refuse and Recycling/Green Waste Collections
 - Vacant Allotment Plots – Policy/Action (Short topic/update).
 - Income Generation.
 - Botanic Centre/Nature's World (Update).
 - Waste Management Strategy (Update).
 - Town Centre Streetscene/Cleanliness and Maintenance of Open Spaces/Flowerbeds/Planters – Impact of Budget Reductions.
 - Improving Habitats for Biodiversity
 - Cemeteries and Crematorium Services – Longer Term Strategy/Future Provision (Including Safe Memorials/Headstones).
 - Junk Jobs/Bulky Waste (Short topic/update).
 - Middlesbrough Environment City – Council Role and Involvement.
 - Promoting Household Energy Efficiency.

ECONOMIC REGENERATION AND TRANSPORT SCRUTINY PANEL

- 11 The panel met on 27th June 2013 to consider and agree a range of suitable topics for inclusion in the work programme. However, this report was distributed in advance of that meeting, consequently the findings will be circulated under separate cover for Members awareness in advance of this meeting

SOCIAL CARE AND ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

12 The panel met on 13 June 2013 to consider and agree a range of suitable topics for inclusion in the work programme. The topics that the panel wishes to examine are detailed below:

- Discharge from hospital – support provided by social services
- Continuing healthcare provision – to ensure the health economy funds health needs

AD HOC

13 The Overview and Scrutiny Board has traditionally identified topics for the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel as they emerge during the year. It is anticipated that this process will continue during 2013-14 providing Members with the flexibility they need to be responsive to need.

RECOMMENDATION

14 It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Board:

- Considers the range of topics identified by the individual Scrutiny Panels for the 2013 – 14 work programme and identifies the subjects to be pursued and the appropriate priority.
- Identifies subjects when they arise which are appropriate for the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel and provide direction.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

15 No background papers were used in the preparation of this report

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