

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

A meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board was held on 7 January 2014.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Brunton (Chair), Arundale, Cole, C Hobson, Kerr, McIntyre, P Purvis and Williams.

**OFFICERS:** J Bennington, G Brown, P Clark, A Crawford and E Pout.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were submitted on behalf of Councillors Dryden, Sanderson, P Sharrocks and J A Walker.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

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

**1 MINUTES - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD 10 DECEMBER 2013**

The minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 10 December 2013 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

**2 HOUSEHOLD WASTE - FINAL REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL**

The Chair of the Environment Scrutiny Panel outlined the Panel's findings, conclusions and recommendations following a scrutiny investigation of the topic of household waste management arrangements in Middlesbrough.

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

1. That refuse and recycling arrangements are reviewed in future to ensure that collection schemes continue to be operated at maximum efficiency - in particular to examine the possibility of moving to weekly collections of recycling and fortnightly collections of refuse.

2. That, in order to further encourage recycling across the Borough, the information contained on the Council's website in respect of waste and recycling arrangements is reviewed/updated as necessary to ensure that:

(a) The Recycling Directory, that lists all items that can be recycled, is kept accurate and up to date.

(b) Information, updated at regular intervals, is included on tonnages of recycling and green waste collected; and information on how recycled materials are dealt with/processed.

3. That the Council's website is also updated to advise that the Council's waste/recycling collection schemes are operated as flexibly as possible and that, in areas where plastic sacks are used for refuse and recycling collections, wheelie bins can be provided on request.

4. That all Elected Members are contacted in writing and invited to submit feedback on operation of the new waste and recycling collection arrangements. This should be with a view to identifying any problems associated with the new arrangements- such as areas where further publicity for the collection schemes might be required; highlighting areas of misuse of communal recycling bins; and identifying areas where enforcement action could assist in addressing problems.

5. That, subject to it being possible to do so at minimal cost, the re-introduction of free, local, public compost collections is examined and considered.

The Board's attention was drawn to subsequent comments received from the Executive Member for Environment.

With reference to paragraph 22 (d) of the Final Report the Executive Member for Environment had confirmed that the decision to reduce the number of green waste collections by one each year had been a 'political' decision, taken as a part of the budget setting process by the Full Council in order to make budget reductions.

In relation to paragraph 22 (c) of the report, the Executive Member for Environment confirmed that up to four additional bins could be provided for recycling/green waste and that additional recycling bins were provided free of charge but only the first and second bins were free of charge in respect of green waste bins.

In terms of side waste it was noted that many residents were taking advantage of the opportunity of using clear bags for additional recycling tied to the recycling bins which the contractors were collecting.

Members commented on the success of the changes to the household waste management arrangements. In response to Members' clarification on a number of areas with particular regard to the levels of recycling and green waste collection and the processing of such materials it was confirmed that a further update/review would be undertaken in the future.

**ORDERED** as follows:-

1. That the comments of the Executive Member for Environment be incorporated into the Final Report.
2. That the findings and recommendations of the Environment Scrutiny Panel be endorsed and referred to the Executive.

3 **DISCHARGE FROM HOSPITAL - FINAL REPORT OF THE SOCIAL CARE AND ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL**

The Chair of the Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel outlined the Panel's findings, conclusions and recommendations following a scrutiny investigation of the topic of Discharge from Hospital - Support Provided by Social Care.

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

- (a) That statistics are accurately monitored and recorded in order to establish when social workers have been unsuccessful in meeting statutory targets and that reasons for any delay are identified.
- (b) That the Council undertakes an in-depth review of the hospital-based social work team, in consultation with Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council and the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, and that consideration is given to:
  - A greater number of social workers being allocated to specific areas in the hospital.
  - All hospital in-patient cases being supported by the hospital-based social work team.
  - An extension of working hours, to include weekend working.
- (c) That the outcomes and associated actions resulting from the review of the hospital-based social work team be reported to the Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel.
- (d) That a pilot scheme be introduced whereby a social worker is available on-site, during peak periods of activity, for A and E and the Acute Assessment Units. Following conclusion of the pilot scheme, a full evaluation be undertaken to determine the feasibility of continuing with the arrangement.
- (e) That measures and strategies are implemented to ensure that closer working links are forged between adult social care and the community care teams and that a single point of

contact for patients is made available.

(f) That Health Scrutiny Panel receives updates on developments regarding :

- The 'discharge to assess' approach.
- The 'time to think' beds facility.
- The review of pharmacy processes.

(g) That discharge hospital notification is implemented at community hospitals.

(h) That further work be undertaken to ensure that all nursing staff are confident in identifying how, and when, to refer a patient to adult social care.

(i) That, if provision remains as is currently the case, community -based social workers attend workshops on hospital discharge, with a particular focus on supporting them to balance high volume case loads, the priorities of individuals and managing dilemmas.

Members referred to the development of the pharmacy processes at James Cook University Hospital which was the subject of a major review and overall improvements a completion date for which was awaited.

Following Members' comments it was agreed that further information be provided regarding the prevailing legislation which makes provision for a system of reimbursement for delayed hospital discharges. Members requested clarification regarding the extent of the current local agreement whereby the provision for the levying of fines would not be implemented.

**ORDERED** that the findings and recommendations of the Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel be endorsed and referred to the Executive.

#### 4 **SCRUTINY PANELS - PROGRESS REPORTS**

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

**NOTED**

#### 5 **CALL-IN**

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

**NOTED**