

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

AGENDA ITEM: 10 (f)

SOCIAL CARE AND ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL PROGRESS REPORT
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15 September 2015

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board with an update on the work of the Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel.

BACKGROUND

The Provision of Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHPs)

2. The last meeting was held on 3 September 2015. At this meeting, Erik Scollay (Assistant Director for Social Care) and Alistair Russell (Supervising Practitioner) were in attendance to provide the scrutiny panel with:
 - An overview of the AMHP role, including duties and responsibilities.
 - An outline of how the Local Authority recruits AMHPs and how provision has changed over the years.
 - An overview of the implications for the Local Authority, and residents, if provision was to remain as it is.
 - An outline of the biggest challenges within the Local Authority, in respect of the recruitment and retention of AMHPs.
 - An outline of the local picture, in respect of provision.
 - An overview of the methods that the Local Authority has tried to reduce turnover.
3. Following receipt of information in respect of the above, the scrutiny panel considered, discussed and agreed the aim and terms of reference for the review – as outlined below:

Aim

To investigate the recruitment and retention of AMHPs and identify solutions to address workforce challenges.

Terms of Reference

- a) To examine the role of Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHPs).
- b) To consider the position in respect of AMHP staffing numbers, the support for staff and the quality of services being provided.

- c) To identify the challenges and difficulties encountered in the recruitment and retention of AMHPs.
 - d) To establish the impact of AMHP workforce challenges on mental health social work and residents.
 - e) To examine potential solutions and effective interventions that will address recruitment and retention problems.
4. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 1 October 2015. At this meeting, the scrutiny panel will receive information on how much it would cost to increase the salary of AMHPs and how additional funding could be sourced to subsidise a salary increase.

RECOMMENDATION

5. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board notes the progress of the Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel.

COUNCILLOR JULIE MCGEE

CHAIR OF THE SOCIAL CARE AND ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

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