

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

A meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board was held on 3 October 2019.

PRESENT: Councillors Thompson (Chair); M Storey (Vice Chair); Councillors; Cooke, Coupe, Hellaoui, Mawston, McIntyre, J McTigue, Platt and Uddin.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Councillors; Higgins, Rathmell, Saunders.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations were made at this point in the meeting.

1 MINUTES - OSB - 5 SEPTEMBER 2019

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2019 were submitted and accepted as a true record.

2 STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE QUARTER 1 2019/20

The Heads of Strategy, Information and Governance and Financial Planning and Support, respectively, provided the Board with an overview of the Council's performance against its strategic priorities at Quarter 1 for the financial year 2019/20. The following points were made:

- The report presented to the Board was approved by Executive on 3 September 2019 and was typically brought to the next available OSB meeting.
- The Strategic Plan was agreed by Council in March 2019 under the previous administration, and a new Strategic Plan, that reflected the current administration's views, would be sent to Council in December 2019, after having been to Executive in November 2019.
- Because of this transitional period some of the indicators contained in the report had slipped from Green to Amber. However, this change was attributed to the review of those indicators.
- 23 out of the 30 priorities identified in the Strategic Plan (77%) were assessed as being on-target.
- Priorities that were rated as Red related to crime, life expectancy and looked after children all of which had wider, national, issues influencing them.
- One of the main issues identified at Quarter 1 was the identification of £2.475m of savings that would not be achieved in 2019/20 and would now be realised in 2020/21.
- The Executive had approved a consultation to be carried out on the future of Berwick Hills children's centre.
- There were also some housekeeping virements made between Children's Care and a new service in the Children's department.
- With regard to Council Risk, as identified in paragraphs 40-43 of the report, No Deal BREXIT was the highest scoring risk as well as the longer term economic impact associated with that issue.
- The Council's Management Team had undertaken a review of the current Risk Register and escalated several risks to the Strategic Risk Register, which were detailed at paragraph 42 of the report.
- The Chief Executive had asked for a review of the Council's risk appetite and this will be brought to Executive in November.

The Head of Financial Planning and Support commented that details of the Council's financial position was detailed in Section 3 of Appendix 1 of the report. It was also commented that many of the difficulties centred on Children's Services.

A Member queried if some of the information presented to OSB could be brought to the Board before being presented to Executive. This would provide the Scrutiny function an opportunity to provide input.

It was commented that due to short turn-around times between the end of financial quarters and deadlines for Executive any information provided to OSB would be subject to change. This could cause confusion if information changed between OSB and being finalised. The Head of Strategy, Information and Governance confirmed that he would seek advice on this question.

Because Children and Adult Social Care constituted more than 50% of the Council's budget, which was rising, a Member queried what was being done to mitigate the increasing overspend. It was commented that various actions had been put in place to address overspend in these areas. Should levels of spending in these areas rise at current rates there was a high risk other services would suffer financially. It was also suggested that representatives from Children's Services attend a future OSB to provide a more detailed update.

A Member commented this issue had previously been brought to OSB and that the proportion spend in this area had continued to increase which was not sustainable.

It was commented this issue was not unique to Middlesbrough and that other Council's at Q1 had reported significant pressures.

A Member queried if, under the previous administration, OSB had received performance information prior to the report going to the Executive. It was confirmed this did not happen.

A Member queried if there were any specific reasons why savings identified for 2019/20 had been deferred to 2020/21 and how the alternative savings were arrived at. It was also queried what the implications were for Children's Services if Berwick Hills children's centre were to close.

In terms of non-achievement of the planned savings, this was a timing issue and the savings would be realised at a later time details of this were provided in paragraph 12 of the report.

It was also confirmed the overall budget for Children's Services was approximately £34m for 2019/20 and details of any overspend was contained in Appendix 1 of the report.

With regard to the recent purchase of new Multi-Functional Devices (printers) for all Council buildings, a Member queried why the previous purchase of Multi-Functional-Devices had not assisted with cost savings and why the Council was purchasing another set.

It was confirmed that previously there were no controls applied to the printers therefore savings could not be realised. However, the latest installation now had such controls so print targets could be applied. The Council currently printed approximately 12 million sheets of paper at substantial cost. However, via printer controls and other digital strategies this could be reduced.

ORDERED: That representatives from Children's Services attend a future meeting of OSB to update Members about the financial pressures facing Children's Services.

3 **FINAL REPORT - ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL - SOCIAL CARE SUPPORT FOR OLDER CARERS.**

The Chair of the Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel presented the Panel's Final Report in relation its review of Social Care Support for Older Carers and drew the Board's attention to the conclusions and recommendations contained within the report.

A former member of the Adult Social Care and Services commented that the report was a good reflection of what was put forward.

The Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel recommended to the Executive:

- That Council policies and procedures relating to older carers continue to be effectively communicated to all Council staff via appropriate methods (for example: payslip, intranet and bulletin messages).
- That work be undertaken to:
 1. Ensure that literature publicising support services for carers (for example: leaflets, posters and flyers) be displayed in prominent places within Council buildings, and electronic resources (for example: the Council's website, social media platforms and e-bulletins) are fully utilised; and
 2. Incorporate information about older carers into existing publicity resources within community settings (such as town centre stalls), with an aim to increase both awareness of the support available to older carers, and the number of referrals to support organisations.
- That all Elected Members receive briefings from appropriate support organisations to help raise awareness of the work being undertaken, and identify ways in which support can best be provided to older constituents with caring responsibilities.
- That consideration be given, with the assistance of appropriate partners, to the issues pertaining to the death of a carer, including legal matters, advocacy and support, and suitable measures be put in place to help alleviate the concerns of carers.
- That training be provided to wider Council staff, where applicable, to ensure that older carers can be effectively identified and signposted to appropriate organisations.
- That Adult Social Care meets with other service areas, including Children's Services and Public Health, to review how data held by the Council is collected, and how it could be utilised to identify areas/wards that may have higher numbers of older, and possibly 'hidden', carers.
- That, in relation to private hire transport issues, the Licensing department encourages private hire companies to enhance provision for transport after 18:00, and increase the number of vehicles with wheelchair disabled access.

ORDERED: - That the findings and recommendations of the Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel be endorsed and referred to the Executive.

4 **FINAL REPORT – HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL – VULNERABLE AND FRAGILE HEALTH SERVICES.**

The draft recommendations of the Health Scrutiny Panel were presented to the Board in relation to its review of Vulnerable and Fragile Services. The Board was asked to consider the following recommendations:

1. That the five-year system plan covering the period 2019/20 to 2023/24 due to be submitted by NENC ICS to the Department of Health by November 2019 be shared with the local authority's HWBB, health scrutiny panel, the VCS and Healthwatch South Tees in advance of formal submission. The panel is keen to ensure that a genuine place based plan with shared system wide objectives is developed. The building of trust and relationships during the development of the plan is as equally important as the document submitted.
2. That demand reduction across the system be prioritised and a deal with South Tees residents formulated. Changing behaviours and empowering residents to reverse the decline in life expectancy, reduce the increasing gap in "healthy years lived" between the most deprived and most affluent wards of the town is paramount. The Extra Life initiative should be given much greater prominence and / or built upon with a new offer that involves and appeals to all South Tees residents.
3. That moves towards the development of an integrated commissioning plan between health, social care (including both adults and children) as well as public health be accelerated, with a fresh commitment to increasing significantly the local authority and CCG's pooled budgets arrangements.
4. That a shared understanding between the local authority and local NHS partners in respect of the governance arrangements around the NENC ICS, the Southern ICP

- and newly established PCN's within South Tees need to be further developed. The formal decision-making processes and how any key decisions taken by these new bodies are reported to Council, the HWBB and Scrutiny need to be clarified.
5. That greater emphasis be given to the integration of mental health services and joint working between Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS FT and the local authority. There is significant overlap between mental and physical health and need to improve the joint working undertaken with local mental health service providers.
 6. That given the workforce pressures on the whole system there remains a real risk that individual services may well be moved to other hospitals without formal consultation. That where there is any indication that this may happen in respect of services currently delivered at JCUH the local authority be notified immediately. Regularly updates on any services that ST CCG determines will be decommissioned also need to be provided.
 7. That prescribing costs for ST CCG continue to be monitored and the impact of the introduction of the new PCN's and appointment of Social Prescribers within individual practices across GP practices be reported to scrutiny in 2020/21.
 8. That consideration be given to revising the current health scrutiny arrangements at local, sub-regional and regional level in response to the development of the NENC ICS, ICP's and PCN's.

A Member sought clarification around recommendation 7 and social prescribing. It was clarified that each of the Primary Care Networks, of which Middlesbrough had three, fell under the control of GP practices. Government funding had been made available for so-called Social Prescribers. The role of Social Prescribers was to examine non-medical provision to assist with people's problems, such as community activities or other types of therapy. A Member commented that Middlesbrough had discussed a similar initiative to Social Prescription regarding children with mental health issues and artwork contained within MIMA.

A Member queried, in the light of residents being encouraged to order prescriptions online, if the Council was providing assistance to elderly residents who did not have the ability to do this. It was clarified that further information would be sought and provided to the Member.

The Board agreed that, before approving the recommendations, the Health Scrutiny Panel should consider the draft recommendations and bring feedback to a future meeting of OSB.

ORDERED:-

1. That the draft recommendations be considered by the Health Scrutiny Panel before being considered at a future meeting of OSB.
2. That further information relating to assistance for elderly and vulnerable residents ordering prescriptions online be provided.

5

NEW STATUTORY GUIDANCE ON OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY: CREATING A CHALLENGE CULTURE

The Democratic Services Officer presented the New Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny. It was commented that the guidance was for Members to consider and judge if the Council's current work in Scrutiny adhered to the principles and practices expressed in the guidance document.

A Member commented that the Council had been exercising Scrutiny best practice for a number of years and that the Guidance Document, while helpful, did not add anything more to current practices.

A Member suggested that another training and awareness session be held for Members of Scrutiny to assist them in their roles.

ORDERED:-

1. That the information contained in the New Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny document be noted.
2. That a Scrutiny training and awareness session be arranged for Members.

6 EXECUTIVE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Chief Executive submitted a report which identified the forthcoming issues to be considered by the Executive as outlined in Appendix A to the report.

The report provided the Overview and Scrutiny Board with the opportunity to consider whether any item contained within the Executive Forward Work Programme should be considered by the Board or referred to a Scrutiny Panel.

The Democratic Services Officer advised the Board of the nature of the Forward Work Programme and that it was a standing item on OSB's agenda.

ORDERED: That the information provided be noted.

7 SCRUTINY CHAIRS UPDATE

The Chair of the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel advised the Board that the panel was nearing a close on its review into Food Bank provision. While the review had been brief it had been worthwhile and informative.

The Chair and Vice Chair of the Health Scrutiny Panel advised the Board that the last meeting of the Panel heard from sufferers of Ehlers-Danlos Syndromes (EDS), a group of rare inherited conditions that affect connective tissue. Connective tissues provide support in skin, tendons, ligaments, blood vessels, internal organs and bones.

The Panel was provided with an update about the condition and current support frameworks. It was advised that this was a little known condition which affected not only the sufferer but also the sufferer's family. The Board was advised that the presentation was extremely informative. The Health Scrutiny Panel also received an update relating to Westlane Hospital and the deaths of two children. The Panel expressed their deep dissatisfaction with the situation and that the hospital required a root to branch review to ensure no other instances such as this reoccurred. The Democratic Services Officer also advised that the CCG and GP representative were in attendance at the meeting and would follow up on some agreed actions and report back to the Panel in six months.

The Chair of the Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel provided a written submission to the Board which stated:

The Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel met yesterday and continued with its current review of Infrastructure Delivery. The Panel agreed the Terms of Reference for the review.

Richard Horniman, Director of Regeneration talked to the Panel about Broadband and the Council's involvement with the Tees Valley Combined Authority in a government programme aimed at ensuring the UK had 95% coverage of superfast broadband. The Panel was going to invite representatives from Virgin Media and BT to attend a future meeting to provide further information in relation to the challenges encountered in Middlesbrough in delivering the programme.

The Panel also received updates on the Centre Square development from Sam Gilmore, Head of Development and the proposed Snow Centre from Nasreen Younis, the Project Manager.

At the next meeting, the Panel would receive an overview of its next topic which was Recycling and Waste Management/Waste Disposal Facility.

The Chair of OSB clarified that Scrutiny Chair updates should be provided at each meeting of OSB and should demonstrate the respective Panel's activity, not just to present concluded topics.

ORDERED:-

1. That the information presented to the Board be noted.
2. That Panel Chairs should provide a verbal update to OSB and in their absence the Panel's Vice Chair should provide the update.