

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

Date: Tuesday 12th September, 2023
Time: 4.00 pm
Venue: Mandela Room

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest
To receive any declarations of interest.
3. Minutes- Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel - 29 March 2023 and 13 July 2023 3 - 10
4. Overview of CQC framework
Erik Scollay, Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration will be in attendance to provide an overview of the CQC framework.
5. What makes effective scrutiny?
The Democratic services officer will provide a brief presentation on what makes effective scrutiny.
6. Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel- Work Programme report 2023/24 11 - 18
The Panel will be asked to consider the work programme report and determine which topics the Adult social care and services scrutiny panel will investigate during 2023/24.

7. Chair's OSB Update

The Chair will provide a verbal update on the issues discussed at the last Overview and Scrutiny Board on 26 July 2023.

8. Any other urgent items which in the opinion of the Chair, may be considered.

Charlotte Benjamin
Director of Legal and Governance Services

Town Hall
Middlesbrough
Monday 4 September 2023

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors J Walker (Chair), , J Cooke, TA Grainge, D Jackson, L Mason, M Nugent, S Tranter and G Wilson

Assistance in accessing information

Should you have any queries on accessing the Agenda and associated information please contact Susie Blood, 01642 729645, susie_blood@middlesbrough.gov.uk

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

A meeting of the Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel was held on Wednesday 29 March 2023.

PRESENT: Councillors J Platt (Chair), G Wilson (Vice-Chair) and G Purvis

PRESENT BY INVITATION: Councillors

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

OFFICERS: C Lunn, Parker, E Scollay and Weir

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors D Davison, T Higgins, D Jones, D Rooney, R Sands and J Walker

22/39 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

22/40 **MINUTES - ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL - 8 FEBRUARY 2023**

The minutes of the Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 8 February 2023 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

22/41 **INTEGRATION OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE - VERBAL UPDATE**

The Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration advised Members that the first meeting of the Tees Valley Integrated Care Partnership, one of four which sat below the overarching Integrated Care Board, had been scheduled to take place on 31 March 2023. Matters including the Partnership's Terms of Reference would be considered at the meeting. In terms of membership, it was explained that representatives from the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS), the Department of Public Health, Children's Services, Chief Executives and lead local authority Elected Members would be in attendance.

A Member raised a query in relation to the Disability Discrimination Act and supported living providers. The Director requested that full details of the enquiry be forwarded to him following the meeting and a response would be provided accordingly.

The Chair thanked the Director for the information provided.

NOTED

22/42 **COST OF LIVING IMPACTS - ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

The Acting Head of Adults Commissioning and the Contracts Team Lead were in attendance to provide an update on issues previously reported to the panel in October 2022, and how these matters had since impacted upon home care, residential care and supported living / extra care. Sector-wide challenges were also addressed as part of the update.

Of the issues previously reported, these related to:

- Home care – fuel costs;
- Residential care – energy costs, food and insurance premiums; and
- Supported living / extra care – increased bills for tenants, particularly in terms of energy costs.

Regarding home care and fuel costs, Members heard that the cost of fuel had now broadly

returned to the figure seen in December 2021. Therefore, the pressure specifically in relation to the fuel costs borne by the home care workforce was not as critical as it had been in Summer/Autumn 2022. It was explained that during that particular time, additional pence per hour had been applied to workers' payments for a three-month period to help cover the increased costs. A separate financial support initiative, provided through the Discharge Fund, was also implemented in December 2022 to assist with fuel costs.

Members heard that in terms of residential care energy costs, where providers had previously reported increases of 200-300%, pressures continued to be experienced. Details were provided in relation to a recent change that had been implemented to the eligibility criteria of the Energy Bills Support Scheme, which allowed some care home residents to apply. The change in February 2023 allowed for residents to apply for the £400 domestic grant; care home residents fully funded by the Local Authority or NHS were not eligible to apply.

In terms of residential care insurance, the panel was advised that insurance premiums had increased as a result of the pandemic. It was explained that providers needed to undertake individual risk assessments for covid positive residents; some providers had to refuse whilst residents remained covid positive, which led to potential delays in discharges. The cost pressures associated with insurance premiums had not disappeared, rather it was other elements of expenditure, utilities for example, that had become more pressurised.

The panel was provided with information regarding sector-wide challenges, which included workforce recruitment and retention issues and market sustainability, i.e., finances.

In terms of the workforce issues, it was explained that one of the main issues facing the entire care market was the security and stability of its workforce. The general cost of living crisis faced almost everyone and, as such, factors such as workers moving into other competing sectors, retail for example, did impact the ability to both recruit to and retain the existing workforce. Similarly, there were workers moving to agencies and, although they remained in the sector, this would inevitably lead to increased costs for local authorities at some stage. Reference was made to Skills for Care's 'State of Care' report published in October 2022, which reported that on any one given day, there were around 160,000 vacancies across the sector.

Regarding market sustainability, the panel received details in relation to a Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) Cost of Care exercise currently being undertaken. It was explained that charging reforms would now be introduced in October 2025. Reference was made to a significant cost differential for care homes providing services to those aged 65-plus, with less differential for home care. The local authority was required to develop and submit a market Sustainability Plan to the DHSC, whilst continuing work with the provider market around sustainability. Further detailed dialogue regarding dual registration would also be carried out. Local authorities were only being awarded one year (2023/24) of Fair Cost of Care and Market Sustainability Grant to provide an uplift to care providers; Middlesbrough would be providing a significant uplift for the second year running – 10% this year. It was highlighted that, over the two-year period, the compounded increase would be 19.9%.

During the discussion that followed, Members considered the potential reasons as to why workers may have switched employment to register with private agencies, or indeed left the sector entirely. Matters such as immediate pay and terms and conditions were discussed. The panel also discussed rising energy costs, the government Energy Bills Support Scheme and payment of the £400 household grant.

The Chair thanked the officers for the information provided.

NOTED

22/43

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD UPDATE

The Chair provided a verbal update on the matters that were considered at the Overview and Scrutiny Board meetings held on 13 December 2022, 12 January 2023 and 28 March 2023.

NOTED

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ANY OTHER URGENT ITEMS WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIR, MAY BE

CONSIDERED.

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MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

Setting the Scrutiny Panel's Work Programme 2023/2024

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To invite the Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel to consider its work programme for the 2023/2024 Municipal Year.

BACKGROUND

2. At the start of every municipal year, scrutiny panels discuss the topics that they would like to review during the coming year.
3. Work programmes are useful as they provide some structure to a scrutiny panel's activity and allow for the effective planning and preparation of work.
4. As part of the process for establishing the work programme, support officers gather information/views from a number of sources. Below is a list of topics which are anticipated to be of particular interest to the scrutiny panel. Members are advised that the list of possible topics is not exhaustive and that additional topics can be added and considered at the scrutiny panel meeting.

REVIEW OF 2021/2022

5. The topics considered by the Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel in 2023/2024 are listed below for Members' information:

Full Reviews:

- The Role of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in Supporting Adult Social Care (with a focus on Covid-19 Recovery)

Updates:

- The Impact of the Energy and Cost of Living Crises on Caring for Vulnerable Adults
- The recruitment and retention of staff within Adult social care
- Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) Annual Report 2021/22 and Strategic Business Plan 2022-25 (
- Integration of Health and Social Care;

- Overview and Scrutiny Board (i.e. items that had been considered by the Board);

BACKGROUND

6. At the start of every Municipal Year, scrutiny panels discuss the topics that they would like to review during the coming year.
7. Work programmes are useful as they provide some structure to a scrutiny panel's activity and allow for the effective planning and preparation of work.
8. As part of the process for establishing the work programme, Democratic Services Officers gather information/views from a number of sources. Below is a list of topics which are anticipated to be of particular interest to the Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel. Members are advised that the list of possible topics is not exhaustive and that additional topics can be added and considered at the scrutiny panel meeting.

Topical issues / Suggestions

Topic	Details
Impending CQC inspection.	<p>At our meeting in July, the Director of Adult social care and health integration outlined that the service was due a visit from CQC.</p> <p>The CQC will be implementing a new framework for providers, local authorities and systems. It focuses on what matters to people who use health and social care services and their families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The framework will introduce six new evidence categories to organise information under the statements. • Registration is also based on this framework. It's the first assessment activity for providers in an integrated process. <p>The Director outlined it would be useful to provide some information on how the Council is preparing for this.</p>
Dementia: 10-year Plan	<p>NHS England (2022) affirms that dementia is a growing challenge. In England approximately 676,000 people currently have dementia; this figure increases to 850,000 when considering the whole of the UK. It is predicted that one million people will have dementia by 2025 and 1.6 million by 2040 (GOV.UK, 2022a). Dementia predominantly affects older people; the likelihood of developing dementia roughly doubles every five years after the age of 65. There are currently around 540,000 carers of people with dementia in England; it is estimated that one in three people will care for a person with dementia</p>

	<p>in their lifetime. Economically, the cost associated with dementia is circa. £23 billion per year, which is predicted to triple by 2040. This exceeds the cost of cancer, heart disease and stroke.</p> <p>In May 2022, the Health and Social Care Secretary, Sajid Javid, announced that a new 10-year plan to tackle dementia would be published later this year.</p> <p>The plan will predominantly focus on new medicines and advances in science and technology, and how these can be used to improve outcomes for dementia patients across the country. However, from a social care perspective, the plan will also focus on supporting people with their specific care needs while living with dementia. The plan will focus on preventative measures (it is estimated that up to 40% of dementia is potentially preventable), as well as other measures including: social care charging reforms; the integration of / improved linkage between health and social care systems; the Health and Care Act and placing the individual at the centre of care; and the levelling up agenda.</p>
<p>Hospital Discharge and Rehabilitation (Social Care) Arrangements for Lone Adults</p>	<p>In March 2022, the Department of Health and Social Care published a document entitled 'Hospital Discharge and Community Support Guidance' (GOV.UK, 2022b).</p> <p>The guidance, applicable from 1 April 2022, sets out how NHS bodies and local authorities can plan and deliver hospital discharge and recovery services for adults from acute hospitals and community rehabilitation units in England.</p> <p>Survey findings published by the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) in May 2022 indicated that more than half a million people are now waiting for an adult social care assessment, for care or a direct payment to begin or for a review of their care. The survey indicated that family carers are having to shoulder greater responsibility and are being asked to take paid or unpaid leave from work when care and support are not available for their family members.</p> <p>For those lone adults being discharged from hospital without immediate or extended family or friends able to provide support, the panel could explore the support and safeguard arrangements in place to ensure a successful discharge from hospital and continued rehabilitation/care.</p>
<p>Supporting Vulnerable Adults</p>	<p>Middlesbrough Council's Strategic Plan 2021-2024 identifies vulnerability as a key priority for the authority.</p> <p>With regards to vulnerable adults, the panel could examine the predominant causes of vulnerability and inequalities in Middlesbrough, and determine how Adult Social Care teams could support Health services further in safeguarding and assisting those identified as vulnerable.</p>

Suggestions

Care homes and DDA regulations	<u>Suggestion from a councillor</u>
Housing providers and DDA regulations	<u>Suggestion from a councillor</u>
Adult social care is there enough being done to assist the over 60s keep active keep fitter & avoid doctors & hospitalisation	<p><u>Suggestion from a councillor</u></p> <p>Previous report looked at physical activity for older people (aged 65 plus)</p> <p>If panel members felt it valuable, the panel could relook at the relook at action plan and be provided with an update.</p>
Middlesbrough Poverty Strategy	<p><u>Suggestion from the Deputy Mayor/ Executive member for Culture</u></p> <p>The Executive are developing a Poverty Strategy and wish for scrutiny to have direct involvement in the shaping of the policy. The panel could ask for the draft of the policy and consider the impact on adult social care.</p>
Staying put agency/care at home/ supporting people to stay at home.	<u>Suggestion from Councillor</u>
Social Housing provision-The availability of bungalows and ground floor apartments.	<u>Suggestion from a Councillor</u>

9. It should be noted that the suggested topics outlined above are exactly that, suggestions. The content of the scrutiny panel's work programme is entirely a decision for the panel to make. When considering the work programme, the panel is advised to select topics that will add value to the Local Authority's work.
10. In addition to undertaking the agreed work programme, scrutiny panels have also previously responded on an ad-hoc basis to emerging issues - such as considering relevant new legislation, guidance or Government consultation documents. This approach occasionally results in further topics being identified for investigation or review throughout the year.

11. The scrutiny panel is also advised that, under the terms of the Local Government Act 2000, local authorities have a responsibility of community leadership and a power to secure the effective promotion of community well-being. Therefore, in addition to the scrutiny panel's generally recognised powers (of holding the Executive to account, reviewing service provision, developing policy, considering budget plans and performance and financial monitoring), panels also have the power to consider **any** matters which are not the responsibility of the Council but which affect the local authority **or** the inhabitants of its area. For example, nationally, local authorities have undertaken scrutiny work on issues such as post office closures, rural bus services, policing matters and flood defence schemes.

Scrutiny Work Plan Prioritisation Aid

12. Members are asked to use the aid attached at Appendix 1 to prioritise issues where scrutiny can make an impact, add value or contribute to policy development.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

13. The scrutiny panel is asked to consider and agree its work programme for the 2023/24 municipal year.
14. When considering its work programme, the scrutiny panel is asked to ensure that topics agreed for inclusion:
 - affect a group of people living within the Middlesbrough area;
 - relate to a service, event or issue in which the Council has a significant stake or over which the Council has an influence;
 - are not issues which the Overview and Scrutiny Board or the scrutiny panels have considered during the last 12 months;
 - do not relate to an individual service complaint; and
 - do not relate to matters dealt with by another Council committee, unless the issue deals with procedure.
15. It is suggested that the scrutiny panel has a mixture of working styles in its programme. This can include detailed and in-depth reviews, shorter topics, or one-off investigations.
16. Once the scrutiny panel has identified the areas of priority, support staff will draw those topics into a programme for approval by the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

RECOMMENDATION

17. That, by utilising the Scrutiny Work Plan Prioritisation Aid (see Appendix 1), the scrutiny panel identifies two topics it would like to include in its work programme for 2023/24, for consideration/approval by the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

18. The following resources were consulted during the preparation of this report:

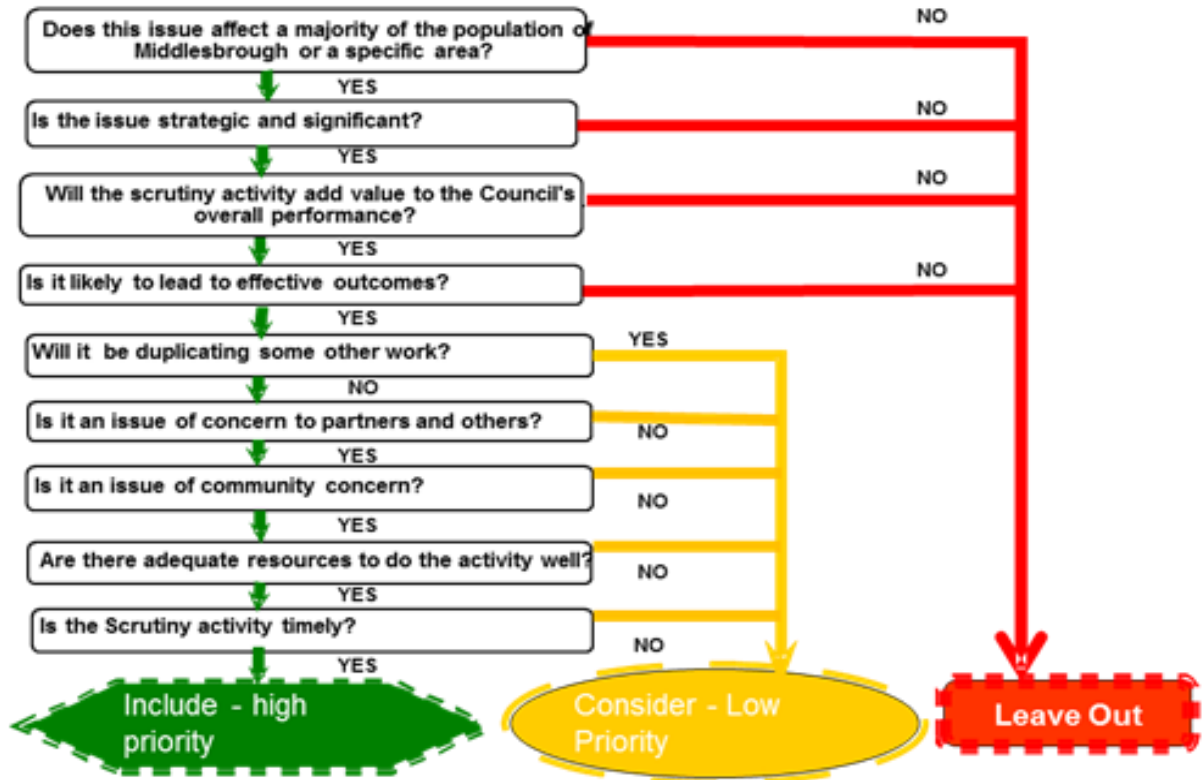
Middlesbrough Council (2021), '*Strategic Plan 2021-2024*', Middlesbrough, UK.

NHS England (2022), '*Dementia*', <https://www.england.nhs.uk/mental-health/dementia/> – accessed 24 May 2022.

SCIE (Social Care Institute for Excellence) (2022), <https://www.scie.org.uk> – accessed various dates.

Contact Officer:

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