

**COUNCIL**

<b>Report title</b>	Scrutiny Progress Report
<b>Chief Executive or Director</b>	Director of Legal and Governance Services
<b>Date</b>	14 October 2020

**Summary**

**Proposed decision(s)**

To update the position in respect of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) and scrutiny panels. The current position regarding progress made by the Board and each of the panels is set out below.

<b>Report for:</b>	<b>Key decision:</b>	<b>Confidential:</b>	<b>Is the report urgent?</b>
To be noted	No	The report is not confidential	Non-urgent report

**Contribution to delivery of the 2020-23 Strategic Plan**

<b>People</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Business</b>
N/A	N/A	Members will be able to keep abreast of the work carried out through the Scrutiny Process

**Ward(s) affected**

No wards in Middlesbrough are directly affected.

**What is the purpose of this report?**

1. To update the position in respect of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) and scrutiny panels.

**Why is this report necessary?**

2. The report is necessary so that Members are aware of the work being carried out by the individual Scrutiny Panels and the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

**What decision(s) are being asked for?**

3. That Council note the report.
4. The current position regarding progress made by the Board and each of the panels is set out below.

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

Since the last Council update, the Overview and Scrutiny Board has met on two occasions and considered the following:-

3 September 2020:

- a) Executive Forward Work Programme;
- b) Middlesbrough Council COVID-19;
- c) COVID-19 Update: Education and Skills;
- d) Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/2021; and
- e) Scrutiny Chairs Update.

1 October 2020:

- a) Mayor's Update;
- b) Executive Forward Work Programme;
- c) Middlesbrough Council's Response to COVID-19;
- d) Executive Member Update: Finance and Governance;
- e) COVID-19 and Finance Update; and
- f) Scrutiny Chairs Update.

## **SCRUTINY PANEL UPDATES**

The updated position in respect of the work of each of the Council's scrutiny panels is shown below.

### **Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel**

The Panel met on 16 September 2020 and received updates from officers in relation to physical activities for older people during Covid-19. The Panel were pleased to hear of the good work carried out during the Covid period and continued work.

As the draft final report was due to be submitted to the March meeting, the Panel agreed to update the report with information received at the meeting (including information from external sources i.e. Age UK). The draft final report, along with draft recommendations will be submitted to the next meeting.

### **Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel**

The Panel has not met since the last Council meeting.

### **Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel**

The Scrutiny Panel is currently investigating the topic of Addressing Poverty Issues and the Impact on Learning.

The Panel met on 14 September 2020 to receive evidence from schools and the Heads from Breckon Hill Primary School, North Ormesby Primary Academy, Park End Primary School and River Tees Multi Academy Trust (RTMAT) were in attendance.

The schools that had been invited to submit evidence had all established effective practices of support for families living in poverty.

In terms of tackling the root causes of poverty and mitigating the effects of disadvantage, the schools have dedicated members of staff to provide pastoral support, promoting the emotional resilience of pupils and providing a valuable link to families; provide small group and one-to-one interventions for pupils; use their resources to develop the skills and roles of their teachers and teaching assistants; assist families with gaining access to a whole range of activities, opportunities and support; provide resources, assistance and support to pupils to learn outside of the classroom and financially support families e.g. by running shops that provide access to low-cost or free groceries and household items and by paying for school trips, school uniforms, PE kits, breakfast club provision etc.

The Panel's next meeting is scheduled to be held on 12 October 2020. At this meeting, the Panel will consider:

- the draft final report in respect of the current topic of Addressing Poverty Issues and the Impact on Learning; and
- an update on the progress made with the implementation of recommendations in respect of the previous review of Mental Health in Schools.

### **Children and Young People's Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel**

The Scrutiny Panel met on 14 September 2020 and received an introduction to its new scrutiny topic – Sufficiency and Permanency (Perceptions of Children in Care).

The Executive Director of Children's Services attended the meeting, together with Directors and Heads of Service, to provide the Panel with a detailed, interactive presentation of a pathway through children's social care, particularly from the child's perspective.

A fictitious family was created for the purpose of the presentation which was designed to give Members a greater understanding of the services and interventions provided by Children's Services and also to demonstrate how each of the services worked in partnership together and with external partners.

The Panel's next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 12 October at 4.00pm when Members will receive further information in relation to the profile of Middlesbrough's looked after children.

### **Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel**

The Panel met on 10 September 2020 where it was provided with evidence relating to its investigation on Community Cohesion. The Head of Stronger Communities was in attendance to update the Panel with how the Stronger Communities Services had responded to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

As part of this the Panel received information relating to Community Tension and how this was monitored via a standardised form that key partners all contributed to. Were any issues reported resulting actions were created for the relevant service. Coupled

with this, a Communication Matrix had also been created to ensure important messages were transmitted to relevant audiences. While created for the purposes of COVID response, both mechanisms were now part of the Council's business as usual approach and were continually monitored for effectiveness.

The Panel also heard that, as part of Community Cohesion works, the Alleyway Improvement project aimed to engage with local residents to improve alleyways. To date 14 expressions of interest had been received with five being progressed in Newport, Linthorpe and Longlands Wards.

The Panel also received information relating to Locality Working and how it played a role in Community Cohesion. Locality Working aimed to reconfigure the relationship between statutory services and communities to develop social capital and to give communities a say in how they are run. Due to the COVID situation progress on Locality had slowed but work continued, despite challenging circumstances.

At the Panel's next meeting on 15 October 2020 an overview of Middlesbrough's Cultural offer and how that relates to cultural events will be provided by the Director of Regeneration and Culture. This will form the basis of the Panel's next review topic.

### **Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel**

The EDEI Scrutiny Panel met on 8 September 2020 and received a presentation from the Head Co-ordinator of the Boro Youth Climate Action Team (BYCA). The aims of the BYCA were outlined, one of which was to increase membership. Officers and Members present at the meeting invited the BYCA become involved in various initiatives including the Council's Green Strategy.

The Panel also received information in relation to the Council's Policy on Tree Management from the Senior Area Care Manager. The Panel asked for an update in 2021 when the Policy is due to be reviewed.

Final evidence gathering for the Panel's current short review of Teesside Crematorium included a presentation from the Head of Property and Commercial Services and the Operational Manager. A Final Report will now be drafted for consideration at the next meeting.

At the next meeting on 7 October 2020 the Panel will begin its main scrutiny review for this year: Middlesbrough Regeneration Post Covid-19.

### **Health Scrutiny Panel**

The Health Scrutiny Panel met on 22 September 2020 and received a presentation from the Director of Public Health (South Tees) and Dr Janet Walker, Medical Director at Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) on the local Public Health / NHS response to Covid-19.

The Director of Public Health (South Tees) advised that over the previous 7 day period for which the data was available there had been 66 COVID-19 positive cases recorded in Middlesbrough. Middlesbrough ranked 34<sup>th</sup> highest nationally for rate of positive tests per 100,000. The proportion of cases affecting Asian residents in Middlesbrough

had been high during the first half of August but this had changed to mostly affecting White British residents.

The Medical Director at Tees Valley CCG advised that the Tees Valley had been chosen as one of 3 NHS England Vanguard sites to implement home monitoring via the establishment of a COVID virtual ward 'COVID care at home'. The panel heard that COVID positive patients were able to remain at home but would be provided with a pulse oximeter to measure their oxygen saturation levels. Patients were then asked to submit their readings via a digital App and would be contacted by staff if they were showing any signs of deterioration.

The Panel also received a presentation from the Medical Director, Interim Director of Nursing and Head of Patient Safety & Quality at South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. In respect of COVID-19 it was advised that from the Trust's perspective indications were that the second wave would start from here and the modelling showed the impact could be longer and more sustained.

The Trust emphasised how the amazing support they received from the local community had kept staff going through the last peak and what actions were needed from everyone now to help protect the local community. It was advised that last week JCUH had 7 to 8 patients on site with COVID-19, as of that day (22 September 2020) the figure was 25 COVID positive patients.

The Trust's Quality Accounts 2019/20 document was discussed and the panel's comments will be incorporated in the final version of the report.

### **Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee**

The Committee met on 18 September 2020 and considered the following items:-

- Quality Accounts 2019/20:-

Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust

- Annual Hand-Over of Chair and Support

### **Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

The Committee is next scheduled to meet on 12 November 2020.

### **SCRUTINY REPORTS SUBMITTED TO EXECUTIVE**

Since the last update to Council, the following Scrutiny Panel reports have been submitted to Executive.

21 January 2020 - Health Scrutiny Panel - Vulnerable and Fragile Health Services

### **Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended**

5. No other options were considered.

## **Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)**

### **Legal**

6. There are no legal implications as a result of the proposed appointments.

### **Financial**

7. There are no financial implications arising from this report

### **The Mayor's Vision for Middlesbrough**

8. The report is line with the Mayor's vision for Middlesbrough

### **Policy Framework**

9. The report does not impact on the overall budget and policy framework.

### **Wards**

10. The report does not impact on wards

### ***Risk***

11. Not applicable.

### ***Equality and Diversity***

12. An Impact Assessment has not been completed, as it is not applicable.

### **Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)**

13. Not applicable

### **Background papers**

No unpublished background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

**COUNCILLOR J THOMPSON  
CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

### **Contact Officer:**

Chris Lunn

Democratic Services

Telephone: 01642 729742 (direct line)

e-mail: [chris\\_lunn@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:chris_lunn@middlesbrough.gov.uk)