

Report of:	The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board and the Director of Legal and Governance Services
Submitted to:	Council
Date:	6 July 2022
Title:	Scrutiny Progress Report
Report for:	Information
Status:	Public
Strategic priority:	All
Key decision:	No
Why:	Not applicable
Urgent:	No
Why:	Not applicable

Executive summary

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

Purpose

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

Background and relevant information**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

2. The Overview and Scrutiny Board met on 27 April, 11 May and 22 June 2022.

At the 27 April 2022 meeting the Board considered / received information in respect of the following:

- Executive Forward Work Programme;
 - School Exclusions: Discussion with Secondary Schools;
 - Chief Executive's Update;
 - The Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel - Final Report - The Green Strategy;
 - Scrutiny Chairs Updates.
3. At the 11 May 2022 meeting the Board considered / received information in respect of the following:
- Executive Forward Work Programme;
 - Executive Member Update: Executive Member for Neighbourhood Safety and the Executive Member for Young Adults and Political Engagement;
 - Chief Executive's Update;
 - School Exclusions: Feedback from School Visits;
 - The Children and Young People's Social Care Scrutiny Panel - Final Report - Sufficiency and Permanency;
 - The Children and Young People's Social Care Scrutiny Panel - Final Report - Locality Working from a Children's Services Perspective;
 - Town Centre Update.
4. At the 22 June 2022 meeting the Board considered / received information in respect of the following:
- Executive Forward Work Programme;
 - Chief Executive's Update;
 - The Communities and Culture Scrutiny Panel - Final Report - Enforcement in Middlesbrough and its impact on crime and anti-social behaviour;
 - School Exclusions: Feedback from School Visits;
 - Strategic Plan 2021-24 - Progress at Year-End 2021/22;
 - Revenue and Capital Budget - Year-End Outturn Position 2021/22;
 - Scrutiny Chairs Updates;

SCRUTINY PANEL UPDATES

5. 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

6. The Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel met on 30 March 2022 and 22 June 2022.

At its final meeting of the 2021/2022 Municipal Year, held on 30 March 2022, the Scrutiny Panel continued to gather evidence in respect of its review of the Role of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in supporting Adult Social Care (with a focus on Covid-19 Recovery).

At this meeting, representatives from Recovery Connections and Streets Ahead for Information were in attendance to provide information regarding their experience of working through the Covid-19 pandemic; the work undertaken with the Local Authority; and potential next steps for the recovery phase. The panel also agreed the Terms of Reference for the review.

The Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration provided Members with an update regarding the integration of Health and Social Care.

At the panel's first meeting of the 2022/2023 Municipal Year, held on 22 June 2022, the Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration was in attendance at the meeting to provide an overview of the service area, and also to provide Members with an update regarding the integration of Health and Social Care.

The Scrutiny Panel discussed and selected topics for the Work Programme 2022/2023, which will be forwarded to the Overview and Scrutiny Board for approval.

A proposed meeting schedule for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year was also approved.

The next meeting of the panel is scheduled for 7 September 2022; the panel will continue with its investigation regarding the Role of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in supporting Adult Social Care (with a focus on Covid-19 Recovery).

Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel

7. At its meeting on 25 April 2022, the Scrutiny Panel continued to gather evidence in respect of its review of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
8. At this meeting, the Headteacher at Discovery Primary Academy and the Deputy Headteacher at Ayresome Primary School were in attendance to provide information on how schools work with the Local Authority to identify and support children with SEND.

The Scrutiny Panel was provided with:

- an overview of how schools identify where a pupil may be having difficulty which may be because of SEN;
- an overview of the support that schools provide to those students who have or may have SEND;
- information on how schools work with the Local Authority to meet the needs of pupils with SEND and ensure appropriate support is in place to enable them to achieve the best possible outcomes; and
- case studies demonstrating the impact of partnership working.

At this meeting, the scrutiny panel also received its first 6 monthly report on exclusions. The Council's Head of Access to Education and Alternative Provision was in attendance to present data on permanent exclusions, fixed-term exclusions, reasons for exclusions and information on how the Council is increasing the level of challenge and support.

The last meeting was held on 20 June 2022. At this meeting, the Scrutiny Panel considered:

- an overview of education and learning, including information on the main service areas within its remit and an outline of priorities, key issues and challenges for the year ahead;
- its Work Programme for 2022/23; and
- its draft final report on the topic of SEND.

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

9. Since the last OSB update report to Council, the Children and Young People's Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel met on 26 April and 21 June 2022.

At the April meeting, Panel Members considered two draft final reports – Locality Working from a Children's Services Perspective and Sufficiency and Permanency (Perceptions of Children in Care), which were subsequently agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 11 May.

At the Panel's last meeting on 21 June, it discussed topics to include on its Work Programme which will be submitted for approval to the next Overview and Scrutiny Board. The Panel was also provided with an update in relation to the Children's Services Ofsted Monitoring Visit carried out in March.

Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel

10. The Culture and Communities Panel met on Thursday 7 April 2022 and were joined by Tracey Godfey- Harrison, Manager of Middlesbrough foodbank, who provided the panel with some up to date figures of foodbank usage.

Figures- to date in 2021/22 are as follows:

- Vouchers fulfilled 3595
- Adults 5080
- Children 3398
- Total number fed 8,478

The Manager explained that they have closed one foodbank in Whinney banks (which is a good step), however have had to open 2 more food distributions centres to cope with demand. They are also struggling to get food donations so quite often have to get deliveries from Morrison's to replenish their stock.

Following on from this presentation, the Panel received a really informative presentation from Janette Savage and Martin Barker, Middlesbrough council officers who provided information on what the Council is doing in relation to what is known as the 'welfare strategy'. In April 2020, a new service was established called Resident and Business support which undertakes a whole host of services, including, but not exclusive, financial assistance, financial support and they are the corporate lead on food poverty. This is an excellent service and officer of the council should be applauded for the work undertaken.

11. The panel also met on 19 May 2022 and agreed the final report on Tough Enough? Enforcement in Middlesbrough and its impact on crime and anti-social behaviour'. The final report was submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Board for approval on 22 June 2022.
12. At the panel's first meeting of the 2022/2023 Municipal Year, held on 23 June 2022, the Director of Regeneration and Culture and the Director of Environment and Community Services were in attendance at the meeting to provide an overview of the service area.

The Scrutiny Panel discussed and selected topics for the Work Programme 2022/2023, which will be forwarded to the Overview and Scrutiny Board for approval.

A proposed meeting schedule for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year was also approved.

Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel

13. The Economic Development Infrastructure and Environment (EDEI) Scrutiny Panel met on 6 April 2022 to agree conclusions and recommendations on the Final Report on the Green Strategy. The Final report was approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Board and then submitted to the Executive. At the meeting of the Executive on 14 June 2022, and following a request from the Chair of the EDEI Scrutiny Panel, consideration of the report was deferred to enable the Panel to review the report and recommendations. The Scrutiny Panel will review the

Final Report on the Green Strategy at the July meeting, make any amendments, and it will then be re-submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Board in line with the usual process.

14. At the Panel meeting held on 15 June 2022, the Panel discussed and agreed topics for the Work Programme 2022-2023. In addition, a proposed meeting schedule for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year was approved.

Health Scrutiny Panel

15. At its meeting on 5 April 2022, the Scrutiny Panel considered a number of items including the Health and Social Care Bill and its implications for health scrutiny, the issues being considered by the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee (TVJHSC) and a Covid-19 update.
16. The Panel was advised that at a recent TVJHSC a number of health issues affecting communities across the Tees Valley were discussed. One of the main issues was the CQC inspection of the Tees, Esk and Wear Valley (TEWV) Mental Health Trust. Members of the TVJHSC had been provided with information from both TEWV and the CQC about the recent inspection and the work being undertaken to improve the care provided by the Trust.
17. The panel heard that whist Members of the TVJHSC remained concerned about the results of the inspection, they had agreed to participate in a visit to Roseberry Park Hospital to tour its facilities and get a first-hand account of the improvements being made. It was also highlighted that Stockton Borough Council had written to the Secretary of State calling for a public inquiry into the quality of care being delivered by TEWV NHS FT.
18. The Director of Public Health (South Tees) provided the Panel with an update on the ongoing response to Covid-19 and the shift to living with Covid-19. It was advised that infection rates stood at 579 per 100,000 but as the availability of testing was decreasing this would likely result in a significant drop in reported infection. It was noted that although national infection rates remained high thankfully the number of patients in James Cook University Hospital remained low. Analysis showed that those in hospital who were ill with Covid-19 were less ill than in previous waves.
19. At the Panel meeting held on 21 June 2022 the Panel discussed and agreed topics for the Work Programme 2022-2023. In addition, a proposed meeting schedule for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year was approved.

Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

20. The Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee (TVJHSC) met on 8 June 2022 and considered the following:
 - Protocol for the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee;
 - Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust – Quality Account 2021/2022;
 - Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust – CQC Inspection Update;
 - Work Programme

The TVJHSC meeting was held at Roseberry Park Hospital and prior to the meeting Members undertook a tour of the hospital site, which included a visit to the Secure Inpatient Services: Ridgeway, the Adult Mental Health Urgent Care Services and the Mental Health Services for Older People provision.

SCRUTINY REPORTS SUBMITTED TO EXECUTIVE

21. Since the last update to Council, the Final Report of the Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel – Green Strategy, was submitted to Executive on 14 June 2022 but deferred for future consideration.

What decision(s) are being recommended?

22. That Council note the report.

Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

23. The Constitution requires the Council to be provided with an update with regard to the work of the Overview and Scrutiny function.

Other potential decision(s) and why these have not been recommended

24. That an update on the work of the scrutiny function is not provided to full Council. This would not comply with the requirements for updates on the scrutiny function, to be reported to full Council.

Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Legal

25. The Constitution requires regular updates on the scrutiny function, to be submitted to full Council.

Strategic priorities and risks

26. The relevant risks this decision would influence are cited below, with an explanation as to why they are relevant and how it would affect each risk.

Risk No	Risk Description	Impact
O8-054	Failure to adhere to Local Code of Corporate Governance and deliver governance improvements outlined in the Annual Governance Statement.	If updates on the work of the scrutiny function were not provided to Council, it would not be in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Human Rights, Equality and Data Protection

27. The subject of this report is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised. It is considered that an equality impact assessment is not required.

Financial

28. There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations within this report

Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s)

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline

Appendices

1	
2	
3	

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

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