

Report of:	The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board and the Director of Legal and Governance Services
Submitted to:	Council
Date:	18 January 2023
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 13 December 2022.

At that meeting the Board considered / received information in respect of the following:

- Executive Forward Work Programme;
- Executive Member Update (Regeneration)

- Revenue and Capital Budget – Projected outturn position at Quarter 2 2022/23
- Corporate Performance update – Quarter 2 2022/23
- Scrutiny Chairs Updates.

SCRUTINY PANEL UPDATES

3. 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

4. The Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel last met on 30 November 2022.

5. Members received updates from:

- the Independent Chair of the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) regarding the Annual Report 2021/22 and the Strategic Plan 2022-25;
- the Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration regarding the Integration of Health and Social Care; and
- the Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration and the Head of Resident and Business Support regarding the impact of the energy and cost of living crises on caring for vulnerable adults.

6. The Scrutiny Panel's next meeting is scheduled to take place on 8 February 2023. At this meeting, Members will receive updates regarding the Integration of Health and Social Care; Residential Care and Domiciliary Care Packages; and The Recruitment and Retention of Staff Within Adult Social Care (previous investigation).

Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel

7. The Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel last met on 12 December 2022.

8. At the meeting, the Scrutiny Panel continued gathering evidence in respect of its current review of 'Youth Offending and Partnership Working with Schools' and the Head of South Tees Youth Justice Service (STYJS) was in attendance to provide information on the barriers to young people in the youth justice system engaging in education.

9. The Scrutiny Panel heard that young people involved in the youth justice system have often experienced multiple adverse childhood experiences and consequently, there can be numerous and complex reasons contributing to a child not attending school or being excluded. At the meeting, information was received on the work undertaken by the STYJS (in partnership with other agencies) to support those with drug or alcohol issues, those vulnerable to exploitation and those with the most complex needs.

10. The Scrutiny Panel's next meeting is scheduled to take place on 16 January 2023. At this meeting, Members will receive evidence to demonstrate how the STYJS works with schools in Middlesbrough to:

- react swiftly and firmly to early signs of criminal behaviour;
- promote engagement in the education system;
- improve attendance;
- prevent exclusions (fixed-term and permanent);
- improve attainment; and
- deliver well-targeted educational support.

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

11. The Panel last met on 20 December 2022. The meeting was attended by the Voice and Influence Manager and the Communications and Engagement Officer who advised the Panel about the work being undertaken by Middlesbrough's Participation Team.
12. Several care experienced young people also attended the meeting to speak to Members about their own experiences in terms of the support they received, or had received, in preparing for adulthood and independence, including their goals and aspirations.
13. The Panel's next meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, 17 January 2023. Arrangements are underway for the Panel to be provided with further information regarding its current scrutiny topic and the Interim Executive Director of Children's Services will be in attendance to provide an update in relation to the findings of the Ofsted Monitoring Visit undertaken in November 2022.

Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel

14. The Culture and Communities Panel met on Thursday 17 November 2022 and received further information into off road bikes by Chief inspector Wendy Tinkler (Cleveland Police) and Chief inspector Jon Hagan (Redcar and Cleveland). The panel had an indepth discussion about ways to assist the police in raising awareness of the dangers of off road bikes.
15. The panel also met on 15 December 2022 in the Dorman Museum, where they received their first evidence session on the museum service. The panel also receives a tour of the galleries and exhibition spaces.
16. The date of the next meeting of the panel is 26 January 2023.

Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel

21. The Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel met on 9 November and 8 December 2022. The Panel received a Flood Risk Management update and discussed the future Work Programme at the November meeting.
22. Councillor Arundale was appointed as Chair, and Councillor Saunders as Vice Chair of the Panel, at a Council meeting held on 30 November 2022.
23. At the December meeting the Director of Environment and Community Services gave a presentation on School Transport. Members were advised of the legislation in place, the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, the annual cost and the current challenges the service faced. Members acknowledged that an incredible amount of work was taking place daily to ensure Middlesbrough children were able to get to school.
24. The Panel also received a presentation in relation to Phase 1 of the Linthorpe Road Cycleway and details of the uptake to date. It was anticipated that Phase 2 of the scheme would commence in 2023/2024 and the Panel asked for an update in a year's time.
25. Councillor J Thompson had made a site visit to Teesside Crematorium and provided her feedback to the Panel.
26. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 18 January 2023 at 10.30 am.

Health Scrutiny Panel

27. The Health Scrutiny Panel met on 13 December 2022. The Panel received information from representatives of NHS England regarding its ongoing review into Dental Health and the Impact of Covid-19. For example, prior to Covid-19, 88% of commissioned dental capacity was being delivered and was seen as meeting demand. However, the Covid-19 Pandemic had added significant pressures to dentists' ability to deliver treatment, especially considering increased safety mitigations. These meant that a routine 15-minute appointment was extended by up to 60 minutes, a situation that has led to dental services having to reduce patient backlogs.
28. A wider challenge facing dental services concerned difficulties in recruiting staff, especially in areas of higher deprivation. The Covid-19 Pandemic had both upstream and downstream effects on this, with older dental professional taking a step back from frontline services while undergraduate dental students lost up to a year of clinical experience.
29. The Panel heard that various initiatives were underway to try and resolve the issues being faced, such as contractual reforms.
30. The Panel also received an update regarding the Acklam Road site of the Foundations Medical Practice. The Panel heard that Foundations provided specialist misuse contracts, including the Diamorphine Assisted Treatment programme. This service supported a relatively low number of patients compared to General Practices, however such patients had complex needs.
31. The Panel heard that due to various contractual changes there had been an initial extension to the contract until March 2023, but that notice had been served on all Foundations Contracts. Work was being undertaken to secure a new provider for the service. A temporary contract extension had been agreed by both the Council and ICB until 2024. A new provider will be agreed by September 2023 who will then take over the contract to deliver services from 2024. Importantly, the Panel heard that there was to be no disruption to patients and that the services seemed more secure going forward.
32. The date of the Panel's next meeting was scheduled for 17 January 2023.

Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

33. The Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee (TVJHSC) met on 16 December 2022.
34. At its meeting on the 16 December 2022 the Committee considered the following:-
 - Winter Planning, Integrated Urgent Care Engagement, Vaccination and Primary Care Access – Update
 - North East Ambulance Service Performance Update
 - Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust - Quality Account Q2 Update
 - Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust - CQC Inspection Update
 - Work Programme

Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee

35. The Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on 14 October 2022.
36. At its meeting on the 14 October the Committee considered the following:-
 - The appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair
 - Group update from Helen Kemp Director of Business Skills;

- A discussion took place on TVCA,s investment plan which the Cabinet had asked the group to look. This was completed and passed back to Cabinet for consideration at their meeting on 28th October;
- Presentation on Culture;
- Date of next meeting – 12 January 2023.

SCRUTINY REPORTS SUBMITTED TO EXECUTIVE

37. Since the last update to Council, there has not been any Final Scrutiny reports submitted to Executive.

What decision(s) are being recommended?

38. That Council note the report.

Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

39. 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

40. 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

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

Strategic priorities and risks

42. 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

43. 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

44. 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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