

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

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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.

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APPENDIX 1

