

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL

Setting the Scrutiny Panel's Work Programme 2024-2025

15 JULY 2024

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To invite the People Scrutiny Panel to consider its work programme for the 2024-2025 Municipal Year.

REVIEW OF 2023-2024

2. At a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 7 May 2024, a new structure for scrutiny arrangements in Middlesbrough was agreed. As a consequence, the People Scrutiny Panel is a new Panel for this year. Relevant topics considered by the former Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel; Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel; and Health Scrutiny Panel in 2023/2024 are listed below for Members' information:

Scrutiny Investigations

Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel:

- Care Homes

Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel:

- School Attendance**

Health Scrutiny Panel:

- Avoidable Deaths and Preventable Mortality***
- Dental Health and the Impact of Covid-19 - Evidence from Public Health South Tees.

Updates/Presentations

Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel:

- Council Budget 2024/2025 and MTFP Refresh - Adult Social Care
- Integration of Health and Social Care
- Overview of CQC Framework
- Recruitment and Retention of Staff within Adult Social Care
- Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) - Annual Report
- What Makes Effective Scrutiny?

Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel:

- An Introduction to 'You've Got This'
- Council Budget 2024/2025 and MTFP Refresh - Children's Services
- Increased Residential and Supported Accommodation for Children in Our Care and Care Leavers
- Overview of Children's Services
- South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership (STSCP) - Annual Report 2022/2023.

Health Scrutiny Panel:

- Closure of Foundations (Acklam Road)
- Council Budget 2024/2025 and MTFP Refresh
- Opioid Dependency - What Happens Next?
- Overview of NHS Health and Public Health
- South Tees NHS Foundation Trust - Quality Account for 2022/2023
- Women's Health Services.

3. **Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel – School Attendance

During the last municipal year, the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel commenced a detailed investigation into School Attendance. Some preliminary evidence including attendance statistics was presented to the Panel. The People Scrutiny Panel is asked to determine whether or not it wishes to continue with this investigation or note the work carried out to date and receive an update on school attendance statistics.

4. ***Health Scrutiny Panel – Avoidable Deaths and Preventable Mortality

During the last municipal year, the Health Scrutiny Panel commenced a detail investigation into Avoidable Deaths and Preventable Mortality. To date, preliminary evidence has been presented to the panel. The People Scrutiny Panel is asked to determine whether or not it wishes to continue with this investigation or note the work carried out to date.

BACKGROUND

5. At the start of every Municipal Year, scrutiny panels discuss the topics that they would like to review during the coming year.
6. 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.
7. As part of the process for establishing the work programme, support officers gather information/views from a number of sources. Following an annual consultation exercise which ran between 15 May 2024 and 14 June 2024, several topics were suggested by Councillors, residents and other stakeholders which are listed below. 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. Priorities from the Council Plan 2024-2027 are also listed below for information.

8. In the interests of openness and transparency, all suggestions appear as received. It should be noted that all suggestions are solely those of the individuals and not all requests will fall under the remit of the scrutiny function; this would be determined by individual panels.
9. In addition, the Overview and Scrutiny Board has suggested one topic for inclusion.

Suggestions

Suggestion	Details
Overview and Scrutiny Board	<p>Homelessness</p> <p>Suggested by Members following discussion at the meeting held on 26 June 2024.</p>
Councillor	<p>School Meals and the Use of Palm Oil</p> <p>Palm Oil in private catering school meals and wider products and its consequences for health (and environment).</p>
Council Officer	<p>Universal Services for secondary school young people (aged 11 to 16).</p> <p>Funding to youth services by local authorities in England and Wales saw a real terms decline of 70 per cent between 2010/11 and 2018/19 (source Re-thinking local: youth services Local Government Association). Qualified youth workers and their colleagues across the youth sector will have vital roles to play in supporting children and young people with social education – the things that they don’t teach in schools and at home. Our town is a geographically compact and some communities do offer a youth provision. But, what is it? Can children and young people find it? Is it safe and regulated? Is it accessible? Does it happen at the right time? Middlesbrough Council’s offer of a community based youth provision ended in 2012. A targeted youth provision was put in place. We have seen and are seeing a rise in antisocial behaviour in our communities.</p> <p>I would like the panel to look at the universal youth provision in Middlesbrough for 11 to 16 year olds to explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are children and young people doing in our town that worries us? i.e. Threatening or hurting people in the community... • What would we see if those worries go away? i.e. children choosing to go to a youth club instead of damaging shops or cars... • Is there help and support in our town that can help tackle

	<p>those worries? i.e. a youth offer in our communities that meets their needs and the publics needs...</p> <p>If the discussions lead to members being uncertain about the current offer being able to meet the universal needs of our young people, then the panel may wish to review the offer through a peer review, discuss the findings and implement change to eliminate those worries and create better life chances for children and young people.</p>
<p>NHS / North East Mental Health and Deafness Service</p>	<p>Digital Flag</p> <p>NENC Deaf wellbeing network is a group of individual members who are deaf, with hearing loss and their hearing supporters. We have recognised the additional barriers experienced by deaf people throughout their lives and burdens of their carers/families. The impacts of the changes following the covid19 pandemic and the implementation of digital transformation have been recognised. Members and supporters (including those from Middlesbrough such as the Middlesbrough Deaf Centre) come together to share information and act on lessons learned in order to promote Deaf people’s access to services and information.</p> <p>At our last deaf wellbeing network meeting on 29/5/2024, deaf and hearing members reflected together on the success of the Deaf awareness week (6-12 May 2024) and the ongoing challenges about their accessibility to information and services and additional barriers from digital transformation.</p> <p>We would be grateful if the councillors could look into the roll out of the reasonable adjustments digital flag and how this could make it easier for deaf people and those with disabilities to use health services.</p>
<p>Resident</p>	<p>Schools / Education</p> <p>Outwood Ormesby School is failing to provide the education our children deserve. Bullying, assaults, and attacks are rampant, both in person and online. Some children are resorting to self-harm due to the stress. The school's response to these issues has been inadequate.</p> <p>This school is not fulfilling its duty to care for families and children, focusing instead on financial gains. Legal action is being considered to enforce necessary changes and ensure the safety and education of our children.</p> <p>Councillors should prioritize education and children's welfare, ensuring schools are properly managed. Outwood Ormesby has been placed in Ofsted special measures and received the lowest rating possible. As a parent with five children who attended this school, I have witnessed a decline in education quality since</p>

	Outwood's takeover. The school appears to prioritize financial gains over students' needs, particularly for SEN children. Many parents share similar grievances, and it's time for action to support parents and children, turning Outwood from a money-focused institution into a proper educational facility.
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Updates

Quality Accounts 2023/24	COMPLETED Annual review of South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust's Quality Accounts.
South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership	Annual update from the South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership.
Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board	Annual update from the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board.

Council Plan

Priority: A successful and ambitious town Maximising economic growth, employment and prosperity in an inclusive and environmentally sustainable way.
Priority: A healthy place Helping our residents to live longer, healthier lives.
Priority: Safe and resilient communities Creating a safer environment where residents can live more independent lives.
Priority: Delivering best value Changing how we operate to deliver affordable and cost-effective outcomes for residents and businesses.

10. It should be noted that the topics and updates outlined above are suggestions. When considering the work programme, the panel is advised to select topics that are of interest to it, as well as topics that the panel feels by considering, could add value to the Local Authority's work.
11. 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.
12. 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

13. When considering topics for the work programme, Members may wish 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

14. The scrutiny panel is asked to consider its work programme for the 2024/2025 municipal year. Further information can be requested from relevant officers if required, for example with regard to timely scheduling.
15. 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.
 - Do not relate to matters dealt with by another Council Committee, unless the issue deals with procedure.
16. 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.

RECOMMENDATION

17. That the scrutiny panel initially identifies no more than 3 topics it would like to include in its work programme for 2024/2025, for submission to the Overview and Scrutiny Board for approval.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A.

Contact Officers:

Claire Jones, Democratic Services Officer
Tel: 01642 729112
Email: claire_jones@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Chris Lunn, Democratic Services Officer
Tel: 01642 729742
Email: chris_lunn@middlesbrough.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1

