

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

Setting the Scrutiny Panel's Work Programme 2021/2022

7 JULY 2021

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To invite the Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel to consider its work programme for the 2021/2022 Municipal Year.

REVIEW OF 2020/2021

2. The topics considered by the Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel in 2020/2021 are listed below for Members' information:

Full Reviews:

- Support for Carers – Full Review (commenced in February 2021, however, this was postponed pending completion of a South Tees Commissioning Project – position to be reviewed Autumn/Winter 2021); and
- 'Physical Activity for Older People (Aged 65-Plus)' – Completion of full Review with Final Report.

Updates:

- Ageing Better Middlesbrough (ABM) – Update and Future/Legacy Planning (further information/update to be obtained Autumn/Winter 2021);
- Integration of Health and Social Care;
- Overview and Scrutiny Board (i.e. items that had been considered by the Board);
- Palliative/End of Life Care (in partnership with the Health Scrutiny Panel as this is predominantly a health-based topic);
- 'Reducing Loneliness and/or Social Isolation in Later Life' (previous review); and
- 'The LGB&T Community and Elderly Care' (previous review).

BACKGROUND

3. At the start of every Municipal Year, Scrutiny Panels discuss the topics that they would like to review during the coming year.
4. 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.

5. 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

Topic	Details
Beyond COVID-19: Supporting the Health and Wellbeing of the Adult Social Care Workforce	<p>The Local Government Association and NHS England Improvement have provided an array of information and resources to assist health and social care providers to support the wellbeing of staff. The importance of staff wellbeing during the current crisis has been clearly highlighted, with acknowledgment given towards the increased pressures, stress and anxiety that have, and continue to face, care staff. The Social Care Institute for Excellence provided examples of these in its '<i>Care Homes and COVID-19: Advice and Best Practice</i>' ('<i>Care Staff Wellbeing</i>') guidance, which included: Anxiety around COVID-19 outbreaks; Long work hours with a lack of breaks and annual leave; The impact of limited or no visiting into care settings; Uncertainties around lockdown lifting; and Financial pressures on the organisation.</p> <p>Specialist helplines have been established to support social care staff during this time. These include a Samaritans helpline (operating 7.00am-11.00pm, seven days a week) and a Bereavement & Trauma Line (operated by Hospice UK between 8.00am-8.00pm seven days a week).</p> <p>An article by the BBC, entitled '<i>Covid: Care Staff Reveal Mental Impact of Pandemic</i>', was published in April 2021. The article detailed several case studies, together with the views of the GMB Union and the Department of Health and Social Care.</p>
COVID-19 Recovery: Adult Day Care Services	<p>Recovery planning for adult day care provision will offer significant challenge. Providers will need to consider the impact of the pandemic on service users, staff, activities undertaken and the ways in which these activities are carried-out. In addition to practical changes to delivery, consideration will also be needed in terms of further challenges imposed by lockdown, and the impact that these have had on service users (including changes to routine, reduced social activity, reduction in confidence levels, trauma, and increases in stress and anxiety).</p> <p>In February 2021 (updated April 2021), a guidance document entitled '<i>Regular Testing for Adult Day Care Centres in England</i>' was published by the Department of Health and Social Care. The guidance sets out how eligible facilities in England can order, test and register regular Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) and lateral flow</p>

	<p>tests for all staff and service users.</p> <p>In May 2021, the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) published a guide entitled '<i>Delivering Safe, Face-to-Face Adult Day Care</i>'. The guide provides information for Commissioners, Providers (including local authorities) and Managers, focusing on varying matters including: Practical information; Social distancing; PPE; Outbreak; Food preparation; Transport; COVID-19-specific training; Considerations for other agencies, contractors, staff and volunteers; and Risk assessments. Examples of good practice are also provided.</p>
<p>COVID-19 Recovery: The Role of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in Supporting Adult Social Care</p>	<p>In September 2020, a report was published by Impower that focused on the VCS "in a world shaped by COVID". Consideration was given to the relationship between local authorities and the VCS, and the opportunities and challenges presented by COVID, including: Access to resources; Demand for support; Funding; and Commissioning.</p> <p>Research undertaken by the Centre of People, Work and Organisational Practice, the Voluntary Action Research Group, and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (2021) indicated that, in some areas, the relationship between local authorities and voluntary sector organisations had changed considerably: some VCS organisations had struggled to engage with local authorities during the pandemic, whereas others had collaborated in new ways. The survey results indicated that for those VCS organisations that had worked with local authorities, half indicated that their relationship had improved during the pandemic. However, owing to high demand and long-term funding pressures, the future is felt to be uncertain.</p>
<p>Enhancing Health and Wellbeing in Care Homes</p>	<p>In 2016, NHS England published '<i>The Framework for Enhanced Health in Care Homes (EHCH)</i>', which discusses: The six EHCH vanguards; The principles of a successful EHCH care model; Care elements and sub-elements; National adoption of the EHCH care model; Partnership/joint working; and The integration and sustainability of health and social care provision. The model moves away from traditional reactive models of care delivery and towards proactive care that is centred on the needs of individual residents, their families and care home staff, which can only be achieved through a whole-system, collaborative approach.</p> <p>In January 2018, Sutton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), as one of the six EHCH vanguards, published a document entitled '<i>Enhanced Health in Care Homes: Low Cost High Impact Learning Guide</i>'. This resource presents a range of initiatives in a simple and accessible format to showcase examples of best practice.</p> <p>In March 2020, the NHS Published '<i>The Framework for Enhanced Health in Care Homes 2020/21 – Version 2</i>'. The document explains that the NHS Long Term Plan (2019) contained a commitment as part of the Ageing Well Programme to roll out EHCH across England by 2024, commencing in 2020. The updated framework continues to encompass the original seven care elements that described the</p>

	<p>original EHCH model, alongside additional sub-elements which reflect the continued learning of stakeholders.</p> <p>The impact of COVID-19 in relation to this topic, in particular the measures that have been put in place to help mitigate the effects of lockdowns and reduced social contact, could also be explored.</p>
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Suggestions

Suggestion	Details
Adult Social Care Finance – Performance and Budget Pressures	Submitted by a Councillor
Home Care Services	Submitted by a Councillor
Incontinence Services	Submitted by a Councillor

6. 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 are of interest to it, as well as topics that the Panel feels by considering, it could add value to the Local Authority’s work.

7. 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.

8. On occasion, Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panels may also be established throughout the year to undertake additional investigations, for example: to examine areas of work which overlap more than one Scrutiny Panel.

9. 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 wellbeing. 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 such issues as:
 - Flood Defence Schemes;
 - Policing Matters;
 - Post Office Closures; and
 - Rural Bus Services.

Scrutiny Work Plan Prioritisation Aid

10. 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

11. The Scrutiny Panel is asked to consider and agree its work programme for the 2021/2022 Municipal Year. To assist in this task, Erik Scollay, Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration, will be in attendance at the meeting to provide an overview of the main services within the Scrutiny Panel's remit, and to outline the priorities, key issues and challenges for the year ahead.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. Once the Scrutiny Panel has identified the areas of priority, the Democratic Services Officer will draw those topics into a programme for approval by the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

RECOMMENDATION

15. That the Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel identifies topics it would like to include in its work programme for 2021/2022, for consideration/approval by the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

16. The following resources were consulted during the preparation of this report:

BBC (2021), '*Covid: Care Staff Reveal Mental Impact of Pandemic*', [Covid: Care staff reveal mental impact of pandemic - BBC News](#) – accessed June 2021.

BBC (2021), '*Mental Health: How You Can Help NHS Staff*', [Mental health: How you can help NHS staff - BBC News](#) – accessed June 2021.

Centre of People, Work and Organisational Practice, et al. (2021), '*Respond, Recover, Reset: The Voluntary Sector and COVID-19*', [NTU-Covid-voluntary-sector-report-Apr-2021 DIGITAL.pdf \(cpwop.org.uk\)](#) – accessed June 2021.

Department of Health and Social Care (2021), '*Regular Testing for Adult Day Care Centres in England*', [Regular testing for adult day care centres in England \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#) – accessed June 2021.

IMPOWER (2020), '*Next Steps for the VCS: The Voluntary and Community Sector in a World Shaped by Covid*', <https://www.adass.org.uk/next-steps-for-the-vcs-the-voluntary-and-community-sector-in-a-world-shaped-by-covid> - accessed June 2021.

Local Government Association (2021), '*COVID-19: Adult Social Care and Support*', [COVID-19: adult social care and support | Local Government Association](#) – accessed June 2021.

Local Government Association (2021), '*COVID-19: Social Care Staff Wellbeing*', [COVID-19 social care staff wellbeing | Local Government Association](#) – accessed June 2021.

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) (2021), '*Mental Wellbeing of Older People in Care Homes*', [Mental wellbeing of older people in care homes | Tailored Resources | Social care | NICE Communities | About | NICE](#) – accessed June 2021.

NHS England (2016), '*The Framework for Enhanced Health in Care Homes*', <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/ehch-framework-v2.pdf> - accessed June 2021.

NHS England (2019), '*The NHS Long Term Plan*', [NHS Long Term Plan v1.2 August 2019](#) – accessed June 2021.

NHS England and NHS Improvement (2020), '*The Framework for Enhanced Health in Care Homes – Version 2*', [the-framework-for-enhanced-health-in-care-homes-v2-0.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](#) – accessed June 2021.

Social Care Institute for Excellence (2017), '*Person-centred Care for Older People in Care Homes*', <https://www.scie.org.uk/person-centred-care/older-people-care-homes> - accessed June 2021.

Social Care Institute for Excellence (2019), '*Care Home Action Plan: Improving Personalisation in Care Homes*', <https://www.scie.org.uk/person-centred-care/improving-personalisation-in-care-homes> - accessed June 2021.

Social Care Institute for Excellence (2021), '*Care Homes and COVID-19: Advice and Best Practice; Care Staff Wellbeing; Care Homes and Supported Living: Learning and Sharing Following the COVID-19 Lockdown*', [Care home staff wellbeing following lockdown \(scie.org.uk\)](#) – accessed June 2021.

Social Care Institute for Excellence (2021), '*Delivering Safe, Face-to-Face Adult Day Care*',
[Delivering safe, face-to-face adult day care \(scie.org.uk\)](https://www.scie.org.uk) - accessed June 2021.

Sutton Clinical Commissioning Group (2018), '*Enhanced Health in Care Homes: Low Cost High Impact Learning Guide*',
https://www.suttonccg.nhs.uk/vanguard/Programme-Aims/PublishingImages/Pages/Enhanced-Health-in-Care-Home/Low_Cost_High_Impact_Learning_Guide_FINAL.pdf - accessed June 2021.

The Care Provider Alliance (CPA) (2021), [Home page - welcome - Care Provider Alliance](#) – accessed June 2021.

Contact Officer:

Chris Lunn
Democratic Services Officer
Democratic Services
Finance, Governance and Support
Tel: 01642 729742
E-mail: chris_lunn@middlesbrough.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1

