

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## FAMILIES AND WELLBEING POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2014

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE</b>

### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report updates Members on progress towards delivering the annual Work Programme for the Families and Wellbeing Policy & Performance Committee.

### 2.0 WORK PROGRAMME OF THE FAMILIES AND WELLBEING POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE – RECENT UPDATES

2.1 The updated work programme for this Committee is attached as Appendix 1.

2.2 At the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014, members of this Committee resolved that “a Task and Finish Group in relation to Safeguarding Children be added to the work programme to be the next review to be undertaken”. As a result, members also agreed that the proposed Review regarding domestic violence will “now be undertaken at a later date”.

2.3 Members will also note that the Spokespersons have requested that reports on the following topics be added to the agendas for future meetings:

- Anti-social behaviour
- Care Bill – Update
- Children & Families Act - Update

### 3.0 CURRENT SCRUTINY REVIEWS - UPDATE

#### 3.1 Francis Scrutiny Review

At their meeting of this Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014, members approved the report of the Francis Review Scrutiny Panel. Subsequently, the report was referred to the Cabinet meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014. The following Minute was agreed by Cabinet:

*“In June 2010, Robert Francis QC was asked by the Secretary of State for Health to undertake a public inquiry into the failures of Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust. The Francis Report was published on Wednesday 6 February 2013.*

*The Cabinet noted that the report had exposed the appalling suffering of patients at Stafford Hospital. It further recognised that what happened in Mid Staffordshire was a system failure, as well as a failure of the organisation itself and concluded that a fundamental change in culture was required to prevent such a failure from happening again. It stressed the importance of avoiding a blame culture and proposed that the NHS should develop a learning culture aligned with the needs and care of patients.*

*The report had also concluded that the Trust Board did not sufficiently listen to its patients and staff and failed to tackle a negative culture involving tolerance of poor standards and*

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*disengagement from managerial and leadership responsibilities. Performance management systems designed to identify poor practice showed on many levels that Mid-Staffordshire was a successful Trust, whilst in reality it was failing patients.*

*In November 2013, the Government formally responded to the Francis Report, accepting the vast majority of the 290 recommendations, placing particular emphasis on compassion and care for patients; culture and standards of care; openness and transparency; and the importance of leadership in an organisation.*

*The Cabinet received Minute No. 42 – The Implications of the Francis Report for Wirral of the Policy and Performance Committee - Families and Wellbeing from its meeting on 28 January 2014. Members noted that the Committee had approved the Francis Report Scrutiny Review Report and resolved that the implications of the Francis Report for Wirral be referred to the next appropriate Cabinet meeting.*

*Attached to the Minute was a report of the Chair of the Francis Report Scrutiny Panel and The Implications of the Francis Report for Wirral - Scrutiny Review Report. The Scrutiny Review Report contained 17 recommendations.*

*The Members of the Scrutiny Review Panel were Councillors Cherry Povall (Chair), Alan Brighthouse, Mike Hornby, Moira McLaughlin and Denise Roberts. They had reported that they were satisfied that, at this particular point in time, that there did not appear to be any immediate risk to the people of Wirral. They were assured that the Clinical Commissioning Group had a robust system in place for the monitoring of Wirral University Teaching Hospital and were assured that the Care Quality Commission, in its evolving role, would have a more in-depth inspection regime over the next few months.*

*Overall Members considered that the hospital was facing challenges but was fully aware that the patient needed to remain at the centre of what it did and the pursuit of tick boxing should not be allowed to cloud that central issue.*

*Councillor Phil Davies told the Cabinet that this was a hugely important piece of work and that the Francis Report had been very important. He congratulated the Members of the Scrutiny Review Panel and thanked them for their hard work.*

**RESOLVED:**

***That the recommendations set out in the Francis Report for Wirral - Scrutiny Review Report be endorsed”.***

Further to Cabinet’s endorsement of the Review, an Action Plan is being developed by officers to support the implementation of the recommendations. This will include plans to introduce the Health Performance Monitoring Panel, which will be a Sub-Committee of this Committee.

### 3.2 Care Homes Scrutiny Review

A review of ‘Quality Assurance and Standards in Care Homes’ has been undertaken by Councillors Wendy Clements (Chair), Mike Hornby, Moira McLaughlin and Bernie Mooney. Members have been assessing how the quality of care homes in Wirral is currently monitored and what processes are already in place. This Scrutiny Panel is now coming towards the end its work. It is envisaged that the report of the Panel will form a separate item on the agenda for this meeting.

### 3.3 Safeguarding Children Scrutiny Review

This Scrutiny Panel comprises Councillors Moira McLaughlin (Chair), Mike Hornby, Cherry Povall, Denise Roberts, Jean Stapleton. Two meetings have been held to determine the scope for the review and receive an officer presentation regarding safeguarding processes. This Review will not be completed in the current municipal year and will, therefore, be included as part of the work programme for the new municipal year.

## 4.0 PROGRESS IMPLEMENTING PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 During the municipal year, Members have expressed their concerns about the lack of sufficient monitoring of previous scrutiny recommendations and reporting back on the progress in terms of their implementation. Officers have developed a mechanism to address this which programmes the monitoring of recommendations across the annual committee meeting cycle.
- 4.2 Recommendations will now be allocated an appropriate review date and a schedule developed which aligns with Policy and Performance Committee Meetings. This will include recommendations arising from Scrutiny Reviews as well as those recommendations arising from debate at Committee Meetings.
- 4.3 It is proposed that this commences from those Scrutiny Reviews completed in 2012/13, of which there were none directly relevant to the Families and Wellbeing Policy & Performance Committee. (The reviews completed in that period related to The Preparations for the International Trade Centre Review and The Implications on Benefit Reforms on Under Occupation).
- 4.4 In terms of this Committee, the relevant recommendations relate to the following Reviews completed in the current municipal year:
- Outcomes for Looked After Children
  - Review of Co-optees
  - Implications of the Francis Report for Wirral

A progress report will be brought to the next meeting of this Committee, in July 2014, to update members regarding progress on implementation of relevant recommendations.

## 5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Members are requested to approve the updated Families and Wellbeing Policy & Performance Committee work programme as set out in Appendix 1 and make any necessary amendments.

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