

People Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Monday, 28 November 2016

REPORT TITLE:	People Overview & Scrutiny Committee - work programme update
REPORT OF:	The Chair of the Committee

REPORT SUMMARY

This report explains the process of developing and managing the scrutiny work programme for the municipal year. The People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, in cooperation with the other two Overview & Scrutiny Committees, is responsible for proposing and delivering an annual work programme. This work programme should align with the corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of the Wirral Plan pledges which are within the remit of the Committee.

The report provides an update regarding progress made since the last Committee meeting held on 8th September. The current work programme is made up of a combination of scrutiny reviews, standing items and requested officer reports. This update report provides the committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year. The current work programme for the Committee is attached as an appendix to this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Members are requested to:

1. Approve the proposed People Overview & Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2016/17, making any required amendments, including suggestions for additional items.
2. Nominate the membership of a task & finish group to undertake the forthcoming Girtrell Court scrutiny review.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

To ensure members of the People Overview & Scrutiny Committee have the opportunity to contribute to the delivery of the annual work programme.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not Applicable

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME AND PRIORITISATION

The work programme should align with the priorities of the Council and its partners. The programme will be informed by:

- The Wirral Plan pledges
- The Council's transformation programme
- The Council's Forward Plan
- Service performance information
- Risk management information
- Public or service user feedback
- Referrals from Cabinet / Council

Good practice suggests that, in order to maximise the impact of scrutiny, it is necessary to prioritise proposed topics within the work programme. Members may find the following criteria helpful in providing a guideline towards ensuring that the most significant topics are prioritised:

Principles for Prioritisation	
Wirral Plan	Does the topic have a direct link with one of the 2020 pledges?
	Will the review lead to improved outcomes for Wirral residents?
Public Interest	Does the topic have particular importance for Wirral Residents?
Transformation	Will the review support the transformation of the Council?
Financial Significance	Is the subject matter an area of significant spend or potential saving?
	Will the review support the Council in achieving its savings targets?
Timeliness / Effectiveness	Is this the most appropriate time for this topic to be scrutinised?
	Will the review be a good use of Council resources?

By assessing prospective topics using these criteria, the Committee can prioritise an effective work programme that ensures relevance and the highest potential to enhance outcomes for residents.

3.2 UPDATE ON CURRENT SCRUTINY ACTIVITY

Since the Committee meeting in September, activity has taken place relating to a number of scrutiny reviews:

Avoiding Admissions Scrutiny Review

The report from the Avoiding Admissions Scrutiny review was approved by Committee on 8th September 2016. Subsequently, the Chair has attended a meeting of Cabinet on 3rd October to present the report. The report was approved by Cabinet who resolved that:

- "(1) the contents and recommendations of the Scrutiny report 'Avoiding Admissions' be noted; and*
- (2) the recommendation that an update report on the implementation and impact of the recommendations be presented to the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee by March 2017, be supported".*

Transforming Wirral – DASS business cases

The report arising from the Transformation workshop held on 10th August and approved by this Committee on 8th September 2016 was presented to Cabinet on 3rd October. The report was approved by Cabinet who resolved:

- "That the Cabinet notes the comments of Elected Members as set out in the report and will include these as part of its considerations when the full business case is presented to it".*

Cumulative Impact on Public Health Scrutiny Review

The report from the Cumulative Impact Scrutiny review was approved by Committee on 8th September 2016. Subsequently, the Chair has attended a meeting of Cabinet on 7th November to present the report. The report was approved by Cabinet who resolved that:

- "(1) the contents and recommendations of the Cumulative Impact on Public Health Scrutiny Review be approved; and*
- (2) the Officer response to the recommendations outlined in the report be supported".*

Community pharmacies Scrutiny Review

Further to the referral of a Notice of Motion from Council, Committee members agreed to review the implications for Wirral of Government proposals for changes to the contractual framework and funding of community pharmacies. An Evidence Day is scheduled for 16th November, when representatives from NHS England, Wirral CCG, Community Pharmacies Cheshire & Wirral and the Public Health team from Wirral Council will attend. Councillors Moira McLaughlin, Angela Davies, Tom Anderson, Phil Gilchrist, Treena Johnson, Chris Meaden and Tom Usher have volunteered to attend the evidence session and undertake this review.

It is anticipated that any follow-up work will be concluded and a report produced for the next People Overview & Scrutiny meeting on 16th January.

Budget Scrutiny 2017/18

It is proposed that the scrutiny process for budget proposals will follow a similar approach this year to that adopted for the 2016/17 budget process. It is expected that a separate workshop will be held for each of the three scrutiny committees (Business, Environment and People). It is anticipated that the People workshop will be held during December with a report containing Members' feedback being prepared for the next People Overview & Scrutiny meeting on 16th January.

In order to plan for the workshop, as with last year's process, it is proposed that, once available, the full list of budget proposals will be reviewed by the Chair and Spokespersons. The options falling within the committee's remit will be prioritised for further scrutiny at the workshop. Relevant officers will be invited to the workshop to provide an overview and also answer questions regarding the proposals selected.

Girtrell Court Scrutiny Review

Members will note that an item is included on the work programme to enable members to undertake a check on service users' experiences of alternative provision following the decision to close Girtrell Court. Therefore, it would be helpful to, at this stage, form a task & finish group to plan and undertake this review.

Local Welfare Assistance Scheme

This item was transferred to the People OSC from the former Transformation and Resources Policy & Performance Committee. It was originally intended that a follow-up review to a previous scrutiny review would take place. However, it has now been agreed that this item will form part of a larger review to be undertaken jointly by the Business and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committees which will scrutinise the impact of Welfare reform more generally.

3.3 HEALTH AND CARE PERFORMANCE PANEL

Panel meetings

The first meeting of the Health & Care Performance Panel during this municipal year was held on 5th October 2016. The outcomes from that meeting are reported as a separate item on this agenda.

The next meeting of the Panel is scheduled for 7th December when the agenda is expected to include items on:

- Continuing Healthcare funding
- Care homes scrutiny review – review of recommendations from a previous scrutiny review published in 2014
- Quality and availability of home care (domiciliary & reablement)
- Commissioning and quality of Intermediate care

Continuing Healthcare funding

NHS continuing healthcare is the name given to a package of care that is arranged and funded solely by the NHS for individuals who are not in hospital and have been assessed as having a "primary health need". The Health & Care Performance Panel will be presented with a report on 7th December to consider the accessibility and operation of the scheme in Wirral. The report will include benchmarking data to illustrate comparisons with other areas. Healthwatch Wirral has previously proposed that further joint task & finish work be done regarding the outcomes of Continuing Healthcare funding for Wirral residents.

Care Quality Commission (CQC)

An announced inspection of Clatterbridge Cancer Centre was held in June 2016. However, the resulting CQC report has not yet been made publicly available.

Weekly bulletins are now received from the CQC providing updates relating to the outcomes of inspections of social care providers, GP practices and dental surgeries. The inspection results for Wirral-based providers are being forwarded to Committee members on a regular basis.

3.4 CHILDREN SUB-COMMITTEE

Further to the publication of the Ofsted report relating to Children's Services in Wirral, members of the Children Sub Committee have held a workshop to consider the involvement of scrutiny in the Ofsted improvement process. Members will be aware that an Improvement Board has been established to oversee the development and implementation of an improvement plan. Scrutiny has a role to scrutinise the improvement process.

It is proposed that the Children Sub Committee will provide the primary focus for scrutiny of the implementation of the Ofsted improvement plan, holding both lead members and senior management to account. In order to effectively scrutinise the work of the Improvement Board, it is proposed that the Children Sub Committee will meet more regularly. It is proposed that the Children Sub Committee will review both the delivery of the key milestones in the improvement plan and performance data on a regular basis. A mechanism to enable the feedback of key messages from scrutiny to the Improvement Board on a regular basis will be explored, as will the development of a more effective working relationship with the Local Safeguarding Children Board. In addition, it is anticipated that there will be opportunities for members to undertake more detailed scrutiny of specific topics in a task & finish or evidence day environment. Topics for further scrutiny will be identified once the improvement plan has been finalised. These will be added to the work programme in due course.

The next meeting of the Children Sub Committee is scheduled for 14th December 2016, with further meetings now arranged for 8th February, 8th March and 5th April 2017.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

The delivery of the scrutiny work programme will be met from within existing resources.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

Not Applicable

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

Not Applicable

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

This report is for information to Members and there are no direct equality implications.

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APPENDICES: People Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Work programme

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date