

<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRS' REPORTS</b>
<b>REPORT OF</b>	<b>THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRS</b>

## **REPORT SUMMARY**

This report provides Members of the Council with an update on the work carried out by each of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The report includes contributions from each of the Committee Chairs. Members of Council are requested to note the contents of the report set out in section 3 below.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

Members are requested to consider the contents of the report and whether they have any questions for the Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1.1 To update Council Members on the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and provide an opportunity to ask questions.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 N/A

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

#### **ADULT CARE AND HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT**

- 3.1 This is the second report of the Adult Care and Health scrutiny committee in this municipal year. During that time the committee has developed and agreed its work programme which is now well underway. At the time of writing the November Meeting has not taken place. It is a full agenda with some key discussion points which will ensure for strong debate & scrutiny.
- 3.2 As reported in October the closure of the Eastham Walk in Centre was carried out without consultation. Following the September scrutiny meeting, the CCG has agreed that this closure would be a temporary one. Council have yet to secure a date for re-opening Eastham WIC and this scrutiny committee will keep the situation under review.
- 3.3 Since the last meeting of the Adult Care and Health Scrutiny Committee, the Chair and Vice Chair met with the Chief Officer of NHS Wirral CCG to discuss further service changes, this time within Urgent Care provision. This is a change that is being led by NHS England. The Chief Officer has been invited to present the options being considered by NHS Wirral CCG to the November Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.4 The Chair was invited by the Chief Officer of Health Watch Wirral to visit the Continuing Health Care Hub Office in Stoke. This visit was arranged to gain a broader understanding of the Dynamic Purchasing Scheme process and the way services are commissioned. As a result of the visit concerns have been raised that will need to be addressed by the ongoing task & finish group for Continuing Health Care funding (CHC).

Councillor Julie McManus

#### **BUSINESS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT**

- 3.5 At the time of writing this update, November's Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee Meeting has not taken place. The significant item on this agenda is Universal Credit and how it will be implemented locally. There is great interest from all Members in Universal Credit and it is an aspect that cuts across the remit of all four O&S Committees due to the wide-ranging impact affecting a number of service delivery areas. Through dialogue with the Chairs of the other Overview & Scrutiny Committees, it is anticipated that further scrutiny activity will be coordinated appropriately.

- 3.6 As agreed by Committee, pre-decision scrutiny of the Road Safety Plan will be undertaken through a workshop approach in December and this is open to all Members of the Committee. This scrutiny activity was initially instigated through a Notice of Motion heard at Committee on 'Reducing Pedestrian Casualties'. The final report will be presented to Committee at January's meeting before a final decision is taken by the Cabinet Member following this. Pre-decision scrutiny remains a strong emphasis of the work programme and this will include a review on the Council's Commercial Strategy next year.
- 3.7 The Task & Finish Scrutiny Review on Resident Parking was considered by Cabinet on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and the implementation of these recommendations will be monitored by Committee to evaluate review the impact they have had for the residents of Wirral.
- 3.8 The work of the LCRCA Overview & Scrutiny is now progressing at a considerable pace. A Task & Finish Scrutiny Review on the process for preparing the Liverpool City Region Spatial Development Strategy programme has commenced and the first evidence session has been held with Planning and Development officers. There are number of evidence sessions scheduled for December and it is anticipated that the review will be complete by January 2018. The outcomes from the review will be presented to the Business O&S Committee at that time.
- 3.9 A session for Members to review the progress on the delivery of Wirral Waters by Peel Holdings is also to be scheduled early in the New Year and Members will consider particular areas which require the session to be focussed on.

Councillor Mike Sullivan

## **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT**

- 3.10 Since the last Chair's report the Children & Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee has met on one occasion and has continued to monitor the Improvement Journey closely. A standing item on the committee agenda is the Improvement Journey Update, presented by the Interim Director for Children. This outlined progress made since September and gave members an opportunity to scrutinise the authority's plan to safely bring down the number of Children in Care.
- 3.11 The Safeguarding Children Annual Report came to the committee from the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) which gave members a breakdown of the current local picture as well as demonstrating progress which the WSCB had made against the seven recommendations it was given in the Ofsted report.
- 3.12 The committee also received an update regarding the Zero Tolerance Towards Domestic Abuse pledge. This consisted of an overview of progress already made, namely the integration of statutory services through the opening of The Safer Wirral Hub, a high profile advertisement campaign designed to raise the profile of Domestic Abuse as a serious issue, and the commissioning of rehabilitation courses to ensure perpetrators become better equipped to build healthy relationships.

- 3.13 The second of the committee's Reality Check visits took place on October 18th. Members visited the Leaving Care Team and had the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the service area as well as shadow staff. Members discussed the progress made since the Ofsted report, including improved contact with care leavers and the introduction of a traffic light 'RAG' priority rating, as a recognition of work still to be done,. These future steps include further individualising Pathway Plans, extending the current care leavers drop-in hub and managing the increased demand on the service after a change in legislation required support for care leavers up to the age of 25.

## **FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

- 3.14 The programme of Reality Check visits will continue, with the next visit taking place at the Early Childhood Service on December 7th.
- 3.15 The Statutory Care Plan Scrutiny Review Task & Finish group has reviewed the scoping document and further planned its evidence sessions, which are due to take place in late 2017 and early 2018.
- 3.16 A training session for Committee members is scheduled for mid-January, the purpose of which is to provide members with an overview of Children's Services in addition to informing the future scrutiny work programme.

Councillor Tom Usher

## **ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT**

- 3.17 The task & finish panel looking into the implications of the Modern Slavery Act met for its first evidence session in November. The Panel met with representatives from the Council's Environmental Health, Trading Standards and Licensing departments. Further evidence sessions with Housing Services and Children's and Adults Safeguarding representatives are planned in the New Year. The Panel will then meet with the Council's partners including the Police and representatives from local charitable and voluntary organisations. The Panel will report findings back to the committee shortly after the review concludes.
- 3.18 A Reality Check Visit to a number of the borough's sports pavilions and changing facilities took place in November. This was well attended and a feedback report capturing Members reflections and recommendations was reported to the Committee meeting on 30th November 2017. Reality Check Visits offer Committee members a different method of performing their scrutiny role, providing an opportunity to test information in policies and senior officer reports with first hand evidence, through observation of services and facilities and talking directly to front line staff. Committee Members are invited to suggest other areas within the Environment remit for future Reality Check Visits.
- 3.19 At the time of writing this update, November's Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee Meeting has not taken place. Agenda items for this meeting include a Notice of Motion on Fly Tipping and a review of Litter and Dog Fouling Arrangements in the borough. Representatives from the Council's partner Kingdom have been invited to talk to Committee regarding this item. A report on Local Authority Powers to

Require Drivers to Switch off Engines Whilst Parked will also be considered by Committee.

3.20 A special meeting of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee has been requested, to discuss the recent letter from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government regarding the Council's failure to adopt a 2004 Act Local Plan. This meeting is scheduled to take place on 7th December at 4pm.

3.21 Other items scheduled on the committee work programme this municipal year include; The Climate Change Strategy, Social Isolation, Management and Regulation of Private Sector Housing and the Perception of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour on Wirral.

Councillor Paul Stuart

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are none arising from this report.

#### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are none arising from this report.

#### **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS**

6.1 There are none arising from this report.

#### **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

7.1 There are none arising from this report.

#### **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

8.1 N/A

#### **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 None - the report is for information only.

**REPORT AUTHOR:**     **Report compiled by:**  
***Michael Lester*** – Scrutiny Officer – Performance and Scrutiny  
telephone: (0151) 691 8628  
email: [michaellester@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:michaellester@wirral.gov.uk)

**APPENDICES – N/A**

**REFERENCE MATERIAL – N/A**

**SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council</b>	<b>16 October 2017</b>
<b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council</b>	<b>20 March 2017</b>
<b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council</b>	<b>19 December 2016</b>
<b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council</b>	<b>17 October 2016</b>
<b>Scrutiny Annual Report to Council</b>	<b>11 July 2016</b>