

REPORT TITLE	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRS' REPORTS
REPORT OF	THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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 covering the period since the previous report presented to council on 18 March 2019. 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 this 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 to provide an opportunity for Council Members to ask questions on the activities undertaken.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Not Applicable

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

ADULT CARE AND HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT

- 3.1 It has been a busy start to the municipal year for the Adult Care and Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee, with the Committee continuing to focus on upholding it's duty to carry out the statutory health scrutiny function of the Council. Collaborative cross-party working has also been a focus, with a work planning session held in July 2019 in order for myself and the Party Spokespersons to prioritise key areas of the health and care agenda, and to ensure that the work programme for 2019/20 is comprehensive yet flexible.
- 3.2 Wirral CCG's Urgent Care Transformation programme has been an important priority for the Committee during the first part of this municipal year, with a special meeting held in July 2019, alongside two meetings of the Wirral Council and Cheshire West & Chester Council Joint Health Scrutiny Committee over the summer. The Committee was pleased to see that changes were made to proposals as a result of public consultation and Council scrutiny but will continue to monitor the implementation of these proposals – particularly in order to evaluate the impact of the changes in provision on areas such as Rock Ferry and Moreton. The Committee has also sought to ensure that there has been an efficient roll out of the NHS 111 service in Wirral, with optimum patient experience and outcomes; a report was received on these service developments in June.
- 3.3 Following Members disappointment with the 'Requires Improvement' rating awarded by the CQC earlier in the year, there was wider discussion around acute care services with in-depth scrutiny of the current accident and emergency provision by Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. At the Committee meeting in June, the Trust were invited to address Members on their concerns; including staffing levels and leadership issues, alongside continued use of 'corridor care' and reports of unsatisfactory patient care. The Trust's CQC action plan, along with its contract with Four Seasons to provide sub-acute care at Clatterbridge

Hospital, is something that the Committee will continue to monitor over the coming months.

- 3.4 As Chair of the Committee, I was keen to re-establish the former Health and Care Performance Panel as a working group at the start of this year; in order to undertake detailed examination, evaluation and monitoring of health and care performance across Wirral. The first meeting of the working group discussed quality improvement practices in care homes, particularly those that are consistently failing, and allowed for Members to engage with commissioners to ensure that safeguarding and care of residents is prioritised. The group have also been apprised of quarterly performance data across the health economy, as well as inviting a Wirral resident living with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) to address Members in order to raise awareness of hidden disabilities.
- 3.5 The September meeting of the Committee included an update on Domestic Abuse performance, in advance of a proposed restructuring of the service. As an area that impacts a high number of Wirral residents, and seeks to protect those in need, Members were keen to scrutinise key performance data and to add developments within the service to the work programme for 2019/20. In addition, an overview of the All Age Disability service was provided to Members, with potential for a detailed piece of scrutiny work to be considered by Members in the near future.
- 3.6 Future items due for consideration by Committee include updates on Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Trust's new specialist hospital and a detailed report on winter pressure arrangements across the health and social care system in order for Members to assure themselves that Wirral's most vulnerable residents will be protected over the coming months. A workshop is also scheduled for October 2019 for Members to review the pooled fund arrangements and integrated care services for 2020-2021.

Councillor Moira McLaughlin

BUSINESS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT

- 3.7 As part of the committee's work programme for the year, all opportunities for undertaking pre-decision scrutiny of Council strategies and policies will be explored. In September, a dedicated scrutiny workshop was convened for Members to gain further updates on the key Birkenhead regeneration projects, Wirral Waters and Birkenhead Town Centre. This will be the start of further engagement with developers over the next Municipal year which will include further workshops and drop in sessions. The success of Wirral Waters is vital for Wirral and ensuring that there is effective scrutiny plays an important role to ensure this happens.

- 3.8 A Task & Finish scrutiny review to consider issues relating to camper vans in Wirral is ongoing. This is following a report presented to Committee in 2018 which highlighted some of the concerns from Members and residents, particularly in New Brighton and Wallasey. It is pleasing that this is progressing and Committee will ensure that the impact of this will be reviewed as part of the ongoing work programme.
- 3.9 A report on the New Ferry disaster was presented to Committee in September 2019 where members agreed to a Task & Finish scrutiny review which aims to ensure that all necessary steps have been taken to address those residents, traders and other people affected by the incident. The review will also consider what improvements can be made by the council and partner organisation in their response to future disasters.
- 3.10 The Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee is receiving regular updates on the latest developments of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority which are vital for Members because of the impact this has on Wirral. Any areas of significance at a local level can be addressed by Members as part of the ongoing work programme. Updates are also provided on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Dave Mitchell

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT

- 3.11 The Children & Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee has met twice, since the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report. The most notable development this Municipal Year has been the much-anticipated Ofsted inspection of children's services in June 2019. Members were pleased to receive news of the outcome of the inspection which noted improvement in all areas since 2016 and was now considered *Good in the impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families*. Four other categories, *the experiences and progress of children who need help and protection, the experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers and overall effectiveness* now '*require improvement to be good*'.
- 3.12 The committee has continued receiving the Improvement Journey and data book as a standing item, presented by the Corporate Director for Children's Services, Paul Boyce. In September this included an overview of the Ofsted inspection with 5 key areas for improvement and next steps plan. Members of the Committee are looking forward to working with Children's services as this plan is implemented.

- 3.13 The Scrutiny Review into statutory care plans came to Committee in July. Members approved the recommendations and the report went to Cabinet in late September with all 19 recommendations being accepted. It is pleasing to note that many of the recommendations have now progressed as part of the improvement journey and members of the Committee look forward to monitoring the recommendations.
- 3.14 Members have continued their programme of reality check visits and reports on Member visits to Merseyside Police and the Early Help 'Family Matters' teams were presented to Committee in July and September, with all recommendations being approved.
- 3.15 Summary of Standards and Provisional Outcomes for Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 came to Committee in September and provided a summary with detailed analysis for the pupil outcomes at the age of 5 and 7 (Key Stage 1 SATs) and at the age of 11 (Key Stage 2 SATs). Members also received a presentation on domestic abuse statistics, which was also presented at Adult Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny. In addition to this, ongoing concerns have been raised by Members in relation to CAMHS waiting times, as such, Members requested a report which was also presented at Committee in September.
- 3.16 The Wirral Safeguarding Children Board has now disbanded and has been replaced with The Wirral Safeguarding Children Partnership, which operates under a new framework. Members attended a workshop last year to look at the new partnership arrangement and agreed to re-write the working protocol between Scrutiny and the partnership. Members agreed this new working protocol at Committee in September and look forward to furthering their involvement with the partnership and receiving updates at Committee.

Councillor Wendy Clements

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT

- 3.17 In July, a 'call-in' meeting of the Committee was held regarding the future provision of municipal golf courses in Wirral. As a result of this meeting, Members called for further discussion to take place – with a 'fact-finding' visit to all four municipal courses and a specially convened workshop held to achieve this. These activities were a valuable opportunity to meet with those who would be impacted by any change in provision; notably stakeholders, course users and trade unions. Following this consultation, the Committee made a number of recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Community Services based on the information gathered, ensuring that the views of Wirral residents were properly taken into account.
- 3.18 Following a highly publicised incident at Hilbre Island over the summer, the September meeting of the Committee welcomed officers to address Members on

the steps leading to the event itself and subsequent actions and investigation. Members were anxious to hear about the context of the incident and to receive assurances that lessons had been learned and were thoroughly apprised by the responsible senior officers. Committee resolved that it supported continued working between the Council, its partners and relevant local groups, as well as consideration of further remedial options, to ensure the safe and long-term future of such a treasured area of significant environmental and historical heritage.

- 3.19 September's Committee meeting also saw an update on the Council's recently declared climate emergency. Although Members were encouraged by the action plan that has been compiled, in order for the authority's commitment for Wirral to become carbon neutral by 2050 to be achieved, there were a number of suggestions made by Members to highlight areas; in particular, the need for further scope to develop allotments across the Borough, and for alternative transport provision to be improved. Committee look forward to receiving further progress updates to future meetings.
- 3.20 Task & Finish reviews have always been a useful way for the Committee to undertake in-depth scrutiny into key areas requiring examination. Not only have the Committee recently completed a scrutiny review into recycling in the Borough – with the outcomes and recommendations agreed by Committee and awaiting Cabinet referral - but a working group has also been established to examine the Council's draft Tree Policy and review the programme of maintenance. Scrutiny Members from across the four Committees will be invited to contribute to this working group, with developments and outcomes reported back to the Environment O&S Committee.
- 3.21 As the Council reaches the final stages of developing its Local Plan, Committee remains dedicated to ensuring updates are received on this issue at each ordinary meeting, with Members keen to keep sight of developments as they progress. Prior to public consultation on the draft Local Plan later this year, I have requested that consultation options are reported to Committee in November 2019 so that effectual input and comment from Members can be captured.
- 3.22 On behalf of the Committee, I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to Councillor Chris Blakeley, who I succeed as Chair.

Councillor Tom Anderson

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 Not Applicable.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

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

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are none arising from this report.

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APPENDICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	18 March 2019
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	10 December 2018
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	15 October 2018
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	19 March 2018

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	11 December 2017
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	16 October 2017
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	20 March 2017
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	19 December 2016
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	17 October 2016