


## Agenda Item No.13

 <b>Brent</b>	<b>Full Council</b> 23 January 2017  <b>Report from the Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships</b>
For Action	Wards Affected: ALL
<b>Update report from the Chair of Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Ketan Sheth</b>	

### 1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the activities carried out by the Council's Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee in accordance with Standing Order 14. The report covers the period from 21 November 2016 and details its work programme, visits and engagement, committee discussions and training.

### 2.0 Detail

#### 2.1 Work Programme 2016/17

The development of the annual work programme has allowed the Committee to map out and plan its activities and work for the municipal year 2016/17. It has also built-in enough capacity to ensure there is the flexibility to respond to events as they arise and space for issues that Brent's residents may suggest.

On 28 June 2016, a member-led workshop developed a work programme for 2016/17 with input from officers from Brent Council and Brent Clinical Commissioning Group. This was done by filtering items according to the new criteria for scrutiny and deciding what subjects or ideas would be appropriate for a task group report and what would be appropriate for a committee report.

The revised 2016/17 Work Programme is attached at Appendix A and is currently up-to-date.

In addition to committee meetings, Members looked at the issue of air quality and the new Air Quality Action Plan at a specially convened workshop, which focused on the public health aspects of air quality and what the involvement of public health should be in development of priorities for the action plan. The Committee is also intending to set up a Members' workshop on the future of community pharmacies in the Borough following proposed changes to funding.

## 2.2 Task Groups

Task groups are an important part of the Committee's remit, allowing for a wide-ranging review and evidence gathering on important issues by Members. As noted in the 2016/17 Work Programme, there will be scrutiny task groups covering:

- Signs of Safety
- Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services

The scrutiny task group on Signs of Safety has now completed its report, which includes four recommendations. It held a number of meetings to help Members better understand the challenges and opportunities of implementing Signs of Safety in the Children and Young People's department, and gather evidence for the report. These meetings included discussions with front-line social workers and practitioners, senior officers and the Strategic Director as well as the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People. Members of the Task Group were shown how the Signs of Safety approach works in practice. The full report will be discussed by the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on 1 February. The recommendations will be presented to Cabinet.

The Members of the Task Group were:

- Councillor Aisha Hoda Benn, Task Group Chair
- Councillor Dr Amer Agha
- Councillor Bhagwanji Chohan
- Councillor Suresh Kansagra
- Councillor Shama Tatler.

The next task group set up by the Committee will be looking at Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services. The Members' task group will be set up at the next Committee on 1 February and will report back to Committee in May.

## 2.3 Engagement and Visits

The Community and Wellbeing Committee is committed to improving scrutiny by carrying out visits outside of formal committee meetings. This allows Members to see at first-hand how services are delivered, speak to officers and most importantly speak with service users and residents about those services. Visits complement the discussion, which takes place at committee meetings, and accounts of the visits are also written-up in a standing report to the Committee so that there is publicly available information about what Members have done.

There has been more engagement with Healthwatch Brent who again attended the Committee on 23 November 2016 to contribute to the discussion on NHS estate in Brent. This follows its attendance on 20 September 2016. Committee is planning to do more visits to NHS services in the Borough and is planning a visit to the Accident and Emergency department at Northwick Park hospital early this year.

On 6 December 2016, the Committee's Scrutiny Officer attended an update about the Shaping a Healthier Future programme organised by the NHS. This is a rapidly evolving area, which the Committee is interested in and works on through the North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC). A second update has been scheduled for 24 January 2017.

## **2.4 Development**

Councillor Sheth attended the annual conference of the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) on 1 December 2016, which was on the theme of democracy and governance and was attended by Members from local authorities nationally. Councillor Sheth presented at one of the workshops on the theme of scrutinising complex relationships, highlighting the best practice used in Brent.

On 8 December 2016, the (CfPS) organised a Health Accountability Forum, which was attended by scrutiny Members and organisations involved in health scrutiny, including a Member of Brent's Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and the Scrutiny Officer. The Forum, which was, in part, an update about health policy, included presentations on the state of adult social care by a policy adviser from the Local Government Association. There was also a presentation about the Independent Reconfiguration Panel – the body which reviews proposals for changes to NHS services that are contested and advises the Secretary of State for Health. The NHS also gave a presentation about new models of care, including the 50 Vanguard Projects in place nationwide.

On 10 January 2017, Professor Michael Preston-Shoot, the Independent Chair of Brent's Safeguarding Adults' Board, led a seminar for Members of the Scrutiny Committee explaining the Board's legal duties, responsibilities and remit.

The Committee has also been involved with the Institute of Local Government at the University of Birmingham. In November last year, the Scrutiny Officer and Chair attended a seminar on the future of local government scrutiny. This event, which was led by academics and practitioners, was also attended by scrutiny officers and Members from Councils across the country, and discussed aspects affecting the development of scrutiny in local government.

## **2.5 Committee Meetings**

The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee has met once since the last report to Full Council. On 23 November 2016, the Committee discussed the NHS estate in Brent and received the annual report of Brent Local Safeguarding Children's Board. On 22 September 2016, the Audit Committee made a recommendation that following an Ombudsman's report into housing a vulnerable person, that scrutiny should review what improvements the Housing Needs Service has made in working with vulnerable people affected by domestic violence. A report about this issue was also heard at the November meeting.

The report about the NHS Estate was presented by the Head of Strategic Estate Development Brent, Harrow, Hillingdon and Ealing CCGs, Chief

Operating Officer of Brent CCG and two representatives from NHS Property Services. In the discussion, Members queried whether the reorganisation of the NHS had posed difficulties for developing the NHS estate in Brent, whether the facilities comprising the estate were in a good condition and how well situated they were to meet the needs of the Borough. A further query was raised regarding whether the CCG had any discretion regarding the national policy of charging market rents. NHS Property Services advised that the move to charge market rent for NHS buildings was determined by the Department for Health and NHS England policy. The Committee heard that out-of-hospital hubs were identified in 2014 and reflected a practical assessment of where there was scope for extension in the NHS estate. The locations and numbers of the hubs were currently being reviewed as part of the work between Brent CCG and the Council. A number of recommendations were made by the Committee.

On the LSCB report, which was presented by the Independent Chair, Members queried the effectiveness of the relationships between different agencies across Brent, how this compared with other London boroughs and the powers of the Board to challenge organisations. Questions were raised regarding the involvement of local communities and plans for wider engagement. The Committee sought the Independent Chair's view on the safety of children in Brent who were at risk from harm, the efficacy of Brent professionals at recognising children at risk and the safeguarding performance of Brent's schools. A number of recommendations were made.

The Head of Housing Needs and the Strategic Director for Community Wellbeing presented the report on Housing Needs. The Committee sought details of the training put in place to improve awareness within the Housing Needs Service of domestic violence policies and the feedback mechanisms employed to provide ongoing assurance that this training was sufficient. Clarification was sought on whether the options in the report were open to private tenants and homeowners as well as BHP tenants. Again, recommendations were made.

The next committee meeting in February will be focusing on safeguarding adults and receiving the annual report of the Safeguarding Adults' Board. In March, it is planned that there will be a focus on school achievement in Brent.

## **2.6 Scrutiny and Cabinet**

The recommendations from the Committee meeting on 20 September about the Sustainability and Transformation Plan and the New Accommodation for Independent Living project have now been referred to the Cabinet Members.

### **Contact Officers**

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PETER GADSDON

**Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2016-17**  
**20 July 2016**

<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Objectives for scrutiny</b>	<b>Cabinet Member/Member</b>	<b>Brent Council/Partner organisations</b>
<b>1.</b>	Impact of the selective and additional landlord licensing schemes	Post-decision scrutiny on implementation of the landlord licensing schemes and impact on improving standards in private rented sector.	Councillor Harbi Farah, Cabinet Member for Housing and Welfare Reform	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing.  Jon Lloyd-Owen, Operational Director Housing and Culture  Spencer Randolph, Head of Private Housing Services.
<b>2.</b>	Task Group report on Brent's housing associations	To discuss and agree report from Councillor Tom Miller's task group about housing associations in Brent.	Councillor Tom Miller  Councillor Harbi Farah, Cabinet Member for Housing and Welfare Reform	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing.  Jon Lloyd-Owen, Operational Director Housing and Culture
<b>3.</b>	Update report on the implementation of an Ethical Lettings Agency	Post-decision scrutiny on implementing Ethical Lettings Agency agreed by Cabinet in July 2015.	Councillor Harbi Farah, Lead Member for Housing and Welfare Reform	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing.  Jon Lloyd-Owen, Operational Director Housing and Culture
<b>4.</b>	Scrutiny 2015-16 Annual Report	To agree Scrutiny's annual report.	Councillor Matt Kelcher, Chair of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee	Peter Gadsdon, Director Performance Policy and Partnerships
<b>5.</b>	Scrutiny 2016-17 Work Programme	To agree the Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme for 2016-17.	Councillor Ketan Sheth, Chair of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	Peter Gadsdon, Director Performance Policy and Partnerships

\*Items involving school education. \*\* Items which may involve partnership work with schools.

## 20 September 2016

Agenda	Item	Objectives for scrutiny	Cabinet Member/Member	Brent Council/Partner organisations
1.	New Accommodation for Independent Living (NAIL) project	Scrutiny review of progress of NAIL scheme to date against its 2016/17 targets.  *Members' visit to Victoria Court, Wembley on 12 September.	Councillor Krupesh Hirani, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing.
**2.	Task Group - Signs of Safety	Agree task group scoping paper and TOR.	Councillor Wilhelmina Mitchell-Murray, Cabinet Member Children and Young People	Gail Tolley, Strategic Director Children and Young People
3.	Sustainability and Transformation Plan	Scrutiny review of progress of STP.	Councillor Krupesh Hirani, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Carolyn Downs, Chief Executive Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing Sarah Mansuralli, Chief Operating Officer, Brent CCG Rob Larkman, Chief Officer, BHH
4.	Co-opted members on Scrutiny Committee	To set out the role of co-opted Members on the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.	Councillor Ketan Sheth, Chair of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	Pascoe Sawyers, Head of Strategy and Partnerships.
5.	Scrutiny Work Programme - Update	Review the Work Programme for 2016/17 and note any changes.	Councillor Ketan Sheth, Chair of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	Pascoe Sawyers, Head of Strategy and Partnerships.

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## Special Scrutiny Meeting

19 October 2016

Agenda	Item	Objectives for scrutiny	Cabinet Member/Member	Brent Council/Partner organisations
1.	Review of housing management options	Pre-Cabinet scrutiny of report on the future of management for Council housing stock.	Councillor Harbi Farah, Cabinet Member for Housing and Welfare Reform	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing.  Jon Lloyd-Owen, Operational Director Housing and Culture

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## 23 November 2016

Agenda	Item	Objectives for scrutiny	Cabinet Member/Member	Brent Council/Partner organisations
1.	NHS estate in Brent	Evaluate impact of changes to the NHS estate in Brent	Councillor Krupesh Hirani, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Jake Roe, NHS Property Services  Sue Hardy, Head of Strategic Estate Development Brent, Harrow, Hillingdon and Ealing CCGs
*2.	Brent Local Safeguarding Children's Board	Receive 2015-16 Annual Report.	Councillor Wilhelmina Mitchell-Murray, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	Mike Howard, Independent Chair Brent LSCB
3.	Housing Needs Services and vulnerable clients	To review progress in implementing recommendations for improvements.	Councillor Harbi Farah, Cabinet Member Housing and Welfare Reform	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing  Jon Lloyd-Owen, Operational Director Housing and Culture  Laurence Coaker, Head of Housing Needs

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## 1 February 2017

Agenda	Item	Objectives for scrutiny	Cabinet Member/Member	Brent Council/Partner organisations
1.	Brent Safeguarding Adults Board	Receive 2015-16 Annual Report	Councillor Krupesh Hirani, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Michael Preston-Shoot, Chair Brent ASB
**2.	Task Group Scoping paper CAMHS	Receive report from task group and discuss recommendations for Cabinet.	Councillor Wilhelmina Mitchell-Murray  Task group chair	Gail Tolley, Strategic Director Children and Young People
**3.	Task Group report - Signs of Safety	Receive task group report on Signs of Safety	Councillor Wilhelmina Mitchell-Murray, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People Councillor Aisha Hoda-Benn, Task Group Chair	Gail Tolley, Strategic Director Children and Young People

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\*\*\* Scrutiny evidence day planned for community pharmacies.

\*\*\*\* Scrutiny workshop on air quality and public health to take place on 23 January 2017

**29 March 2017**

<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Objectives for scrutiny</b>	<b>Cabinet Member/Member</b>	<b>Brent Council/Partner organisations</b>
<b>*1.</b>	School Annual Standards and Achievement report	Receive report.  Examine reasons for underachievement in Brent's schools among particular groups.	Councillor Wilhelmina Mitchell-Murray, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	Gail Tolley, Strategic Director Children and Young People
<b>*2.</b>	Special Educational Needs (SEN)	Update and evaluation of SEN provision.	Councillor Wilhelmina Mitchell-Murray, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	Gail Tolley, Strategic Director Children and Young People

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**9 May 2017**

<b>Agenda Rank</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Objectives for scrutiny</b>	<b>Cabinet Member/Member</b>	<b>Brent Council/Partner organisations</b>
<b>1.</b>	Brent's community libraries	Community libraries and draft cultural strategy.	Councillor Tom Miller, Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing.  Jon Lloyd-Owen, Operational Director Housing and Culture
<b>2.</b>	Primary Care Transformation	Review implications of primary care transformation for Brent	Councillor Krupesh Hirani, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Brent CCG
<b>**3.</b>	Children's oral health	Review of work being done to improve children's oral health in Brent.	Councillor Krupesh Hirani, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing  Dr Melanie Smith Director of Public Health

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