



Full Council
23 November 2020

Report from the Assistant Chief Executive

Chair's Report: Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Non-Key Decision
Open or Part/Fully Exempt:	Open
No. of Appendices:	One Appendix 1: Community & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Work Plan
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officers:	James Diamond, Scrutiny Officer, Strategy and Partnerships 020 8937 1068 james.diamond@brent.gov.uk Pascoe Sawyers, Head of Strategy and Partnerships, 020 8937 1045 pascoe.sawyers@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To present the 2020/2021 work plan of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to Council and update members on recent meetings and activities.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 To note the report, including the committee's work plan in Appendix 1.

3.0 Detail

3.1 The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee leads member oversight of Cabinet decision-making, policy development and delivery of strategic priorities across a wide range of corporate services including adult social care, children's

services, education services, housing, culture, and public health. To focus the work of the committee effectively it develops an annual work plan. The work plan, set out in Appendix 1, was developed using a prioritisation process as the statutory guidance for overview and scrutiny advises. As a result, items selected for the new work plan have a focus on strategic priorities set out in the Borough Plan 2019-2023, and the council's Policy Framework.

- 3.2 The annual work plan is also based on the scrutiny committee's role, according to the Council's constitution, of maintaining effective and rigorous examination of Cabinet decisions and proposals and of holding the Cabinet to account. The work plan for the 2020/2021 municipal year has a focus on post-decision scrutiny, or a review of the delivery of outcomes, actions or intended improvements after a decision or new strategy has been agreed. Examples of post-decision scrutiny in the new work plan include the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025, and New Council Homes Development programme, which will be discussed by the scrutiny committee on 19 January 2021.
- 3.3 As part of its remit, the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee can scrutinise, and make recommendations, to NHS organisations and can review the provision and operation of health services in the borough. At the scrutiny committee meeting on 15 September members reviewed items on the disproportionate impact of Covid 19 on Brent's Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities, the response and recovery to the Covid 19 pandemic by the local NHS, and proposals for a single clinical commissioning group for north-west London. The chair of the scrutiny committee was particularly pleased that they were joined by Professor Mala Rao, from Imperial College London, for the discussion on BAME communities and the impact of Covid 19 in Brent. Appendix 1 shows there are other health items scheduled for the work plan such as reports on A&E performance and the quality of primary care on 24 March 2021.
- 3.4 The scrutiny committee was due to hold an additional meeting on 2 November 2020 to establish a task group to review access to primary care and general practice; however, this meeting was postponed after the announcement by the Government of a second lockdown and the task group has been postponed.
- 3.5 The review of specialist services at the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre has now restarted. The review of the centre, which is based in the London Borough of Hillingdon, started in 2019 but was paused because of the NHS response to Covid 19. In recent weeks there have been workshops organised for patients and members of the public. Patients are mainly from north-west London, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire, and around four per cent of patients using the centre are from the London Borough of Brent. Councillor Ketan Sheth has met recently with the Head of Engagement and Partnerships at NHS East of England to discuss the review and patient engagement so far. Options setting out proposals for the centre are expected to be published next year.
- 3.6 The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee is also keeping a watching brief on the proposals for palliative care which will affect residents in Brent, Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea, and Westminster. These were reviewed by a special meeting of the scrutiny committee on 3 March. The CCGs published a report

in August setting out the results of its engagement, including workshops with patients and the public and responses by stakeholders. However, the review is now paused because inpatient beds at the Pembridge Unit are being used as part of the local NHS response to Covid 19.

- 3.7 The North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, for which Councillor Ketan Sheth is Brent's representative, discussed NHS proposals to merge the eight clinical commissioning groups in North West London on 7 September. The CCGs are still expected to merge in April 2021. The next meeting of the joint health scrutiny committee was scheduled for October but was cancelled with the agreement of the chair, who is a member from the London Borough of Hounslow, because of the start of a second wave of Covid 19.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 Equality Implications

- 6.1 There are no equality implications.

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

- 7.1 Ward members are involved in the scrutiny committee through its meetings and discussion of reports.

Report sign off:

SHAZIA HUSSAIN
Assistant Chief Executive