



Full Council
10 July 2017

**Report from the Director of Policy,
Performance and Partnerships**

For Action

Wards Affected:
ALL

**Report from the Chair of Community and Wellbeing
Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Ketan Sheth**

1.0 Summary

This report provides a summary of the activities carried out by the Council's Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee in accordance with Standing Order 41. The report covers the period from 23 January 2017 and details its work programme, visits and engagement, committee discussions and training.

2.0 Detail

2.1 The remit of the committee as set out in the Constitution is overview and scrutiny of children's services, adult social care, public health, health services and the NHS, wellbeing and cultural services. There are eight elected members on the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee. The members who were elected to committee in 2016/17 have been re-elected to the committee for 2017/18. The only change was that in February 2017, Cllr Suresh Kansagra replaced Cllr Reg Colwill as Vice-Chair of the committee.

The membership of the committee for 2017/18 is:

Cllr Ketan Sheth, Chair
Cllr Suresh Kansagra, Vice-Chair
Cllr Ahmad Shahzad OBE
Cllr Lesley Jones MBE
Cllr Claudia Hector
Cllr Neil Nerva
Cllr Aisha Hoda-Benn
Cllr Rita Conneely

In addition, there are six co-opted members of the committee, representing the Anglican diocese, Roman Catholic diocese, governors of primary schools, governors of secondary schools, Muslim faith schools and Jewish faith schools. They have been co-opted for the purposes of school-education.

Members of the committee are currently developing their annual work programme, which will map out and plan its activities for the municipal year 2017/18. 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 residents suggest.

On 21 June 2017, a member-led workshop developed a work programme for 2017/18 with input from officers from Brent Council and Brent Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). This was done by filtering items according to the 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. Members of the Cabinet also attended for part of the workshop.

The 2017/18 Work Programme will be agreed by committee at its meeting in July.

2.2 Engagement and development

Members of the committee undertook a visit at Northwick Park Hospital in March 2017 to meet the senior leadership team from North West London NHS Healthcare Trust for an update about services. As part of the 2017/18 Work Programme members will be considering which other visits they will want to make as part of their reports and which experts in particular policy areas from outside the local authority can complement the committee's work.

Members of the committee also continued to develop their work with the assistance of the Centre for Public Scrutiny. Councillor Sheth attended a conference organised in June 2017, which was on the theme of health scrutiny and accountability. He also presented to a meeting at the Institute of Local Government (INLOGOV) at the University of Birmingham on 30 June about the work of the committee and its approach to overview and scrutiny in the local authority. Cllr Sheth further attended the April meeting of the London Scrutiny Network in April and spoke about the activities of Brent's committee.

As well as the Centre for Public Scrutiny, members of the three scrutiny committees were involved in training in May with Cllr Barrie Taylor, who is a senior member in another London borough with significant experience of overview and scrutiny and wider policy development. .

2.3 Committee Meetings

Since the last report in January, the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee has met twice. A summary of the meetings follows.

On 1 February 2017, the committee received the following reports:

Annual report of the Brent Safeguarding Adults' Board

This was presented by the Independent Chair, and reviewed its work for 2015-16. Also attending the committee meeting, and taking part in the discussion, were the Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing and Strategic Director for Community Wellbeing.

The 2015/16 Annual Report provided a summary of safeguarding activity which had been carried out by the Board's partners across the social care, health and criminal justice sectors in Brent, and focused on four major areas: prevalence of abuse; multi-agency response to safeguarding risks; the Board's strategic priorities; and learning from case reviews to improve safeguarding practice.

At committee, members had a wide-ranging discussion with the Independent Chair about levels of commitment from statutory partners, the opportunities for local community and voluntary organisations to get involved in the work of the Board and the overall strengths of partnership work in Brent. There was discussion about the involvement in the work of the Board by contractors who provide housing and adult social care services for Brent Council. Members should note that the annual report of the Brent Local Safeguarding Children's Board was presented by the independent chair and discussed in November 2016. In 2017/18, it is intended that the two safeguarding reports will be heard together at Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

The Signs of Safety task group report, discussed in the last update to Council in January, also reported to the committee in February, with the recommendations presented to Cabinet in March.

On 29 March 2017, the committee received the following reports:

Annual School Standards and Achievement report 2015-2016

A report reviewing school standards and achievement for 2015-2016 was discussed. Currently, 96 per cent of Brent schools are judged good or outstanding by Ofsted, well above the national average. The arrangements which had supported this improvement were outlined to the committee. Collaborative, school-led partnerships were now a key feature of Brent's education provision. These themes were discussed with a number of Brent head teachers who attended the meeting.

Update on Specialist provision and the implementation of the SEND Reforms

Members also had a wide-ranging discussion about a report outlining the progress made in delivering reforms to services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). These reforms were required following the introduction of the Children and Families Act 2014 and a new SEND Code of Practice in 2015. Among the issues discussed included progress to the deadline for conversion to the new Education, Health and Care Plans, engagement with the borough's parents, strategic commissioning with health partners and identifying children with SEND and in providing effective support to improve life chances. Members should note that as part of the 2017/18 Work Programme, members of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee are considering looking again at the SEND reforms.

The final meeting of the municipal year in May was cancelled because of the pre-election period. All of the items which were to be discussed will now be looked at in July 2017/18.

2.4 Scrutiny and Cabinet

The committee has sent a number of recommendations it made during its meetings in 2016/17 to the Cabinet for it to consider. These include recommendations about the SEND reform report which were referred to the Cabinet meeting which took place on 22 May 2017. Recommendations about contracts with housing and social care providers to encourage partnership working with the Safeguarding Adults Board referred to the Cabinet meeting which took place on 19 June 2016.

3.0 Upcoming Scrutiny Meetings and Activities

The first meeting of 2017-18 is scheduled for 19 July 2017 and the items which it will consider are:

- An update on the Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP)
- A report on children's oral health
- A report on transforming primary care in Brent (presented by the Brent Clinical Commissioning Group), and
- Overview and Scrutiny's 2016/17 Annual Report.

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