


ITEM 13.2

 Brent	Full Council 9 July 2018
	Report from the Director of Performance Policy & Partnerships
Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee - Chair's Update Report	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
No. of Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): (Name, Title, Contact Details)	James Diamond, Scrutiny Officer James.diamond@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the activities carried out by the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee. The report covers the period from 22 January 2018 and details the committee's work programme, visits and engagement, committee discussions and training.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the content of this report.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The remit of the committee as set out in the constitution is the 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. All committee members are part of the Labour group apart from the vice-chair who is from the Conservative group. The membership of the committee for 2017/18 was:

Cllr Ketan Sheth, Chair
Cllr Reg Colwill, Vice-Chair
Cllr Rita Conneely
Cllr Claudia Hector

Cllr Aisha Hoda-Benn
Cllr Lesely Jones MBE
Cllr Neil Nerva
Cllr Ahmad Shahzad OBE

- 3.2 In addition, the committee has six co-opted members, 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 now finalising their annual work programme for 2018-19. The work programme will have a built-in capacity to ensure there is the flexibility to respond to issues as they arise and which residents may suggest. The work programme will be published with the next report to Full Council.
- 3.3 The chair of the committee and members would like to pay tribute to Councillor Lesley Jones MBE who sadly passed away this year. She had been a member of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee since it was established in 2016. She was a much valued member of the committee and was particularly interested in school education, youth services and children's services. She also had a long and distinguished career in local government as an elected member and was widely respected by residents in her ward and across the borough for her work and public service.
- 3.4 At its meeting in **February** 2018, the committee was given a verbal update by the Director of Public Health about the prevalence of tuberculosis in the borough. Members heard that despite the fact that Brent's rates of TB infection per 100, 000 people were declining, they remained above the average for England and the rates used by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to identify areas of high prevalence. In terms of absolute numbers, there were approximately 200 cases registered a year in Brent. A clinical Director at Brent Clinical Commissioning Group explained that a special screening service had been run since May 2016 in collaboration with Brent CCG and Harrow CCG. It was part of a national programme and it focused on patients aged 16 to 35 who had arrived in the UK and had lived in a high-risk country.
- 3.5 The committee discussed a report on childhood obesity in Brent presented by the Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing and the Director of Public Health. Members heard that there has been a worsening of childhood obesity in Brent since 2014/15, which is above London and England averages. The most worrying trend is the proportion of obese children in year 6 which has risen since 2013 and is higher than the London and England averages. The recent data shows that one in three of Brent's children are obese by the time they leave primary school. On the basis of the discussion and the evidence presented, the committee has suggested that childhood obesity is considered as a task group for 2018/19 to look at the problem in depth.
- 3.6 The committee also looked at the life chances of adults with learning disabilities in the borough. The report addressed how the local authority and its partners are helping to improve outcomes across social care, health, education and employment for adults with learning disabilities living in the borough. The borough had performed well in relation to annual health checks

with 90% of residents with a learning disability registered with a GP surgery receiving a health check, which exceeded the national target of 64%. However, an area which required improvement was the number of people in employment. Although employment rates in Brent had improved over the last year, these remained lower than the London average. Overall, the number of people with learning disabilities was increasing and their needs were becoming more complex. In terms of housing, the New Accommodation for Independent Living (NAIL) project had been successful so far, with a wide range of units provided. They had a capacity ranging from 6 to over 90 places.

- 3.7 In **March** the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee focused on children's services. The committee was presented with the Annual School Standards and Achievement report 2016-2017. Brent is committed to all children and young people in the borough attending good and outstanding schools. In terms of achievement, most of Brent's groups perform well compared to either the same group nationally. In 2018/19 the committee has committed to hearing the annual update on school standards as well as a separate report on raising achievement among certain groups in the borough.
- 3.8 There was an update on the implementation of Signs of Safety in Brent, following members' task group report last year. Committee members heard that the council, having previously participated in Phase 1 of the England Innovations Project for Signs of Safety, had been successful in bidding to participate in Phase 2. This project provided the council with two years of resource to further embed Signs of Safety in Brent and would enable the council to continue to work with the project leads, Professor Eileen Munro, Andrew Turnell and Terry Murphy, who are child protection consultants at MTM consultancy.
- 3.9 A task group on home care commissioning, which was chaired by Councillor Ketan Sheth, was set up by the committee and reported to Cabinet on 9 April 2018. The task group had a focus on four areas: resources, health and wellbeing outcomes, partnerships and relationships, and the quality of home care. Members of the task group engaged with a number of stakeholders as part of their review. The task group developed three recommendations:
- A) The London Living Wage is introduced incrementally as part of new commissioning model so that home care workers working for providers commissioned by Brent Council are paid the London Living Wage rate by 2021;
- B) A minimum standard of training is incorporated in the new commissioning model which gives staff in Brent sufficient development opportunities to encourage home care as a career within the social care sector;
- C) A home care partnership forum should be set up as part of a new commissioning model to discuss issues of strategic importance to stakeholders involved in domiciliary care services in Brent.
- 3.10 As mentioned above, a task group is being considered by the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on childhood obesity. The scheduling for the task group will be in the committee's annual work programme which is currently being developed. In addition, the committee is also considering setting up a separate task group on contextual safeguarding and young

people. Again, the timing will be confirmed in the new work programme which will be published in the next update report.

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 Non-executive members are regularly involved in overview and scrutiny.

Report sign off:

Peter Gadsdon

Director of Policy Performance and Partnerships