



Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee
8 July 2021

Report from the Assistant Chief Executive

Update: Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2021-2022

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| Wards Affected: | All |
| Key or Non-Key Decision: | Non-key |
| Open or Part/Fully Exempt: | Open |
| No. of Appendices: | Appendix 1 - Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2021/22 |
| Background Papers: | None |
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1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report updates members on the scrutiny committee's work plan for 2021/22.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 Members of the scrutiny committee to review the report with the work plan in Appendix 1.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The work programme sets out the items, which the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny committee will review during the municipal year according to its remit: Adult Social Care; statutory safeguarding boards, Children's Services; Cultural Services; education; housing; Public Health and external NHS organisations. Reports to the scrutiny committee are based on Cabinet decision-making; annual reports of the safeguarding boards, strategy, and policy development.
- 3.2 To develop an effective work programme at the start of the municipal year members were encouraged to use a set of criteria to enable them to prioritise. Prioritisation encourages members to limit the number of items they select for committee. This means limiting committee reports to items which are

considered a strategic priority as set out in the Borough Plan 2019-23; of concern for a large number of the borough's residents; timely; a significant decision for Cabinet or form part of a forthcoming policy review or new strategy which is being developed by the Cabinet. This methodology of prioritisation is considered best practice by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) and is a tool for a scrutiny committee to develop a work plan during the year.¹

- 3.3 An assumption of work planning is that the scrutiny's committee programme will be iterative and there will be spare capacity and the flexibility to look at new issues as they arise, and as the Cabinet's Forward Plan is developed during the year. In addition, for practical reasons it may be necessary to move items to a different committee date and the work plan will be updated accordingly. The work plan in Appendix 1 has left capacity at the end of the municipal year.
- 3.4 The work plan also set out the policy areas and decision-making of external partner organisations to be scrutinised at committee. As part of its remit set out in the constitution, the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee can scrutinise, and reviews the provision and operation of NHS services in the borough and can make reports or recommendations to NHS organisations. The areas of external scrutiny of the NHS are also set out in the work plan, and this includes the meeting in January 2022 at which there will be a focus on NHS items.
- 3.5 The scrutiny task group set up to review GP access, which is being chaired by Cllr Mary Daly, is ongoing and has now completed four evidence sessions. To date there has been a focus on the digital offer and issues around digital access to GP primary care services, understanding the extent of capacity in GP practices, and reviewing how underlying health conditions and health inequalities may be affecting demand for GP services and pressures in certain areas. This task group will be making an interim report to committee at the meeting in September, and a full report to the meeting in January 2022.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. However, Budget and finance issues are addressed in the Financial Implications section of any reports to committee requested as part of its work programme.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report. However, legal implications are addressed in the Legal Implications section of any reports to committee requested as part of its work programme.

6.0 Equality Implications

- 6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report. Equality implications are addressed in the Equality Implications section of any reports to committee requested as part of its work programme.

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

¹ *The Good Scrutiny Guide* (Centre for Public Scrutiny, June 2019), p26

- 7.1 Ward members are regularly informed about the committee's work plan in the chair's report to Council. There is ongoing consultation with stakeholders, in particular with Healthwatch who attend the committee for health-related items.

REPORT SIGN-OFF

Shazia Hussain

Assistant Chief Executive

