

	<p align="center">Full Council 12th July 2021</p>
	<p align="center">Report from the Assistant Chief Executive</p>
<p align="center">Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report</p>	

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

- 1.1 To present Full Council with the 2021/22 work programme for the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, and provide an update on meetings and activities by the scrutiny committee.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 To note the report, including the committee's 2021/22 work plan.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The Council's constitution requires the annual work plan for an overview and scrutiny committee to be agreed by Full Council. The work plan sets out the areas of council policy that the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny committee will review, and the task groups the committee will oversee during the municipal year. The work plan for the committee for 2021/22 is in Appendix 1.
- 3.2 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.

- 3.3 A scrutiny committee can look at anything which affects the borough or its inhabitants, subject to certain limitations. However, members will find it difficult to effectively scrutinise a large number of items across a very broad remit. The 2019 statutory guidance on overview and scrutiny recommends that a committee concentrates on fewer, significant topics which it reviews in-depth. As part of developing the work plan at a session convened for the committee, which was also attended by strategic directors, Cabinet members and health partners, members prioritised issues based on strategic thinking and focusing on high-value, high-impact areas of decision-making and policy development.
- 3.4 The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee is due to meet on 8 July 2021. The meeting's focus will be on the Brent Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022/2025, and it is due to hear from Cabinet members, the Director of Public Health and health partners in the North West London Clinical Commissioning Group. The focus will be on priorities in the new strategy, including addressing health inequalities, and improving health outcomes and population health in the borough. The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee met on 29 April and focused on adult social care. The Cabinet member for Adult Social Care presented reports on the recommissioning of home care in the borough, which the committee reviewed with a task and finish group in 2018. The committee was told that the task group's recommendations had been adopted as part of the new model and recommissioning of home care services. The scrutiny committee also reviewed the New Accommodation for Independent Living (NAIL) programme. This is another policy area which has been scrutinised at a previous meeting. The final substantive report at the meeting was on day care services in the borough, including commissioned day centre services in the community, and the committee considered how these day services have been affected by the Covid 19 pandemic, including the management of disruption for service users.
- 3.5 At the meeting on 24 March 2021, which was in the previous municipal year, the committee reviewed A&E performance at Northwick Park and St Mary's Hospitals and looked at the challenges which emergency and urgent care services had experienced locally during the Covid 19 pandemic. The meeting heard from senior officers from London North West Hospitals NHS Trust, and Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust about the challenges they have faced in meeting national standards for A&E services. The committee also reviewed the ratings for GP practices in the borough as judged by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) as the regulator. The committee sought assurance that there were effective support arrangements for practices to improve, and heard that 82% of GP practices in the borough were rated as Good by the CQC.
- 3.6 At the same committee meeting in March a scrutiny task group was set up to review GP access, which is being chaired by Cllr Mary Daly. This task group is ongoing and has now completed three evidence sessions. To date there has been a focus on capacity in GP primary care and issues around digital access to GP primary care services, understanding the extent of capacity in GP practices. The task group has also reviewed how underlying health conditions and health inequalities may be affecting demand for GP services and pressures in certain areas. The members of the task group will be holding a dedicated evidence session for patients later in the summer to understand their perspectives on GP access, and to gain their insight about the main challenges and issues.

- 3.7 The meeting on 19 January 2021 reviewed housing with reports on the New Council Homes programme as well as the supply of affordable housing. The committee scrutinised the programme which is aiming to deliver 1,000 new council homes, and scrutinised the barriers to delivering more affordable housing. The meeting also looked at the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025. As part of this report they considered the council's response in providing emergency accommodation to single homeless people as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and the request by central government for local authorities to accommodate all rough sleepers and people at risk of sleeping rough, including people with No Recourse to Public Funds. As part of a focus on housing, the scrutiny committee also looked at the work of Brent Council's wholly-owned company i4B, which was set up to help deliver the council's policy objectives of providing good quality affordable housing and reducing the use of temporary accommodation by acquiring a portfolio of affordable private rented accommodation for letting to homeless households.
- 3.8 On 24 November 2020, the scrutiny committee received an update about Brent Council's management of the impact of Covid 19 on Education and Children's Services. The report updated members on the work the Children and Young People's department had been doing to manage the impact of Covid 19, and the support for vulnerable children and young people during the response, lockdown and recovery phases. The report also considered planning for that winter and the second wave of Covid 19. The 24 November meeting also considered other items from the Children and Young People department. This included an update to the scrutiny committee on schools and education, including the Action Plan for Raising Achievement of Boys of Black and Caribbean Heritage. There was a separate report on the implementation of the action plan following an inspection of Brent Youth Offending Service. This report provided details of actions as a result of the four recommendations from the inspection in 2019 by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP). The final report to the committee at the 24 November 2020 meeting provided an update on the implementation and development of contextual safeguarding in Brent. This report also provided an update on progress with recommendations made by a task group set up by the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee in 2018 to review contextual safeguarding.
- 3.9 Cllr Ketan Sheth is Brent's representative on the North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He has been nominated chair of the committee for 2021/22 after the chair Councillor Mel Collins, from the London Borough of Hounslow, stepped down as a representative in May this year. Councillor Dan Crawford from the London Borough of Ealing has been nominated to be the committee's vice-chair for 2021/22. The first meeting of the year, hosted by the London Borough of Hounslow will be on 14 July and there will be reports on the development of the North West London Integrated Care System, and the recovery of NHS services from the pandemic as well as the vaccination programme in north-west London.

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 were involved in developing the work plan as part of their membership of the committee, as were health partners in the local NHS.

Report sign off:

SHAZIA HUSSAIN

Assistant Chief Executive