

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Care & Independence Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

**29 June 2017**

**Overview and Scrutiny at North Yorkshire County Council  
Work Programme**

**1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with a summary of how overview and scrutiny is undertaken at the Council, the way in which subjects for scrutiny are identified, why it is important and what role committee Members have to play
- 1.2 This report provides Members with details of some of the specific responsibilities and powers relating to this committee and also a copy of the committee work programme for review and comment.

**2.0 Overview and Scrutiny**

- 2.1 The Local Government Act 2000 first introduced the requirement for every local authority to include provision for at least one scrutiny committee. Under this Act and associated legislation, scrutiny can make recommendations to the executive and other local bodies. The committees also have the power to question executive members, Council officers and representatives of other organisations, such as health and community safety agencies. The committees can also investigate any issue which affects the local area or its residents.
- 2.2 For more detail on the roles and responsibilities of the overview and scrutiny committees have, please refer to the North Yorkshire County Council Constitution – <http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/24041/The-council-constitution>

**3.0 Why it is important**

- 3.1 Overview and scrutiny provides an important check and balance, helping to ensure that the decisions made by the executive reflect the needs of local people, are financially robust and are in keeping with the strategic priorities and responsive to the operational demands of the Council.
- 3.2 Where overview and scrutiny is not active, engaged and inquisitive, then there is a risk that some strategic and operational issues could be overlooked and opportunities for early intervention and action missed. Examples of where this has occurred in other local authorities, albeit at the extreme, include: child sexual exploitation in Rotherham MBC; poor care and high mortality rates at

Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust; and governance failings in Tower Hamlets LBC.

#### **4.0 How it contributes to the Council's outcomes**

4.1 In addition to being an important check and balance and providing early warning, scrutiny aims to contribute to the Council's corporate outcomes in many other ways, including:

- Enabling Councillors to become directly involved in the development of: policy and strategy; consultation and public engagement planning; and the performance management of the Council
- Keeping Councillors and the public informed of key issues, priorities and initiatives
- Enabling direct engagement with the people of North Yorkshire
- Acting as a critical friend and providing Executive Members and senior officers with a non-partisan forum in which to test out ideas, approaches and gain feedback and suggestions
- Providing a structure, through the call-in process, for scrutinising specific decisions of the Executive
- Scrutinising issues of public concern beyond the remit of the Council.

#### **5.0 The overview and scrutiny committees**

5.1 There are five thematic overview and scrutiny committees, each of which meet in public four times a year, as below:

- *Transport, Economy and Environment* – focussed upon transport and communications infrastructure, supporting business and helping people develop their skills, sustainable development, climate change, countryside management, waste management, environmental conservation and cultural issues
- *Corporate and Partnerships* - the Council's corporate organisation and structure, resource allocation, asset management, procurement policy, people strategy, equality and diversity, performance management, communications, partnership working, community development and engagement and community safety (as the designated Crime and Disorder Committee).
- *Young People* – focussed upon the interests of young people, including education, care and protection and family support
- *Care and Independence* – focussed upon the needs of vulnerable adults and older people and people whose independence needs to be supported by intervention from the public or voluntary sector
- *Health* - focussed upon the planning, provision and operation of health services in the County with the aim of acting as a lever to improve the health of local people and ensuring that the needs of the local people

are considered as an integral part of the delivery and development of health services.

5.2 Overview and scrutiny functions are also supported through the following bodies:

- *Scrutiny Board* – this is made up of the Chairs of the five thematic overview and scrutiny committees and enables work to be co-ordinated, opportunities for joint scrutiny to be identified, and committee Chairs to act as critical friends.
- *Police and Crime Panel* - which scrutinises the Police and Crime Commissioner. There is also a Complaints Sub-Committee which meets on an ad hoc basis.
- *Looked After Children's Members Group* – this is not a formal committee but acts as an informal advisory group to the Executive Portfolio Holder for Children's and Young Peoples Services. The group performs a role consistent with statutory guidance for local authorities to promote the health and well-being of looked-after children.

## 6.0 Mid Cycle Briefings

6.1 In addition to formal meetings of the committees, there is also a system of Mid Cycle Briefings. A Mid Cycle Briefing enables the Chair, Vice Chair and Spokespersons for each committee to meet in private four times a year to: discuss the work of the committee; identify areas for in-depth scrutiny; and have an early discussion with commissioners and providers about topics that may be confidential or under development

6.2 Your Chairman has indicated he will look at the advantages of extending an invitation, on particular occasions, to the wider committee membership to these briefings.

## 7.0 Different approaches to overview and scrutiny

7.1 In addition to formal committee meetings and Mid Cycle Briefings, there are a number of approaches that overview and scrutiny can take, including:

- *Task and finish groups* – these are informal, time-limited bodies comprised of councillors that are established by the committee to undertake a discrete piece of scrutiny work and then report back their findings and recommendations.
- *In-depth scrutiny review* – this is when the committee undertakes a prolonged and detailed piece of work, which includes: desktop research; expert witnesses, typically commissioners and providers; service/site visits; and engagement with service users. This approach combines formal committee meetings and the use of a sub-group.

- *Select Committee* – where an overview and scrutiny committee works as a whole committee to address a particular issue. Typically, this would involve a one-off meeting lasting a day where a range of expert witnesses are invited to attend and give evidence. The committee members then analyse the evidence given and make recommendations for improvements.
- *Call-in* – this is when non-executive members of the Council can have decisions of the Executive considered by a scrutiny committee.
- *Joint scrutiny* – this is when there is an issue that is directly relevant to more than one overview and scrutiny committee and so a collaborative approach is taken. This can be internal or external. The Scrutiny of Health Committee often undertakes external joint scrutiny.

## **8.0 Role of committee members**

8.1 All the members of an overview and scrutiny committee have a key role to play in ensuring that Council and other public sector services are delivered effectively, efficiently and that they achieve good outcomes for local people. The things that committee members can do, include:

- Contributing to the development of the committee's work programme, providing constructive challenge and suggesting topics for inclusion
- Actively engaging with all stages of the scrutiny process, including any additional groups or meetings that are setup outside of the scheduled, formal meetings of the committee
- Developing constructive relationships with other members of the committee, the relevant portfolio holders and service leads
- Working apolitically as a committee, with a strong focus upon service improvement and outcomes
- Receiving the data, information and analysis that is presented in an impartial manner
- Assessing the data, information and analysis presented to the committee and testing the conclusions that are drawn
- Contributing to the development of recommendations, based on the committee's deliberations, which are specific, realistic and relevant.

## **9.0 Care and Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

9.1 The Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee has some specific responsibilities and powers relating to its area of work, as summarised below:

9.2 The needs of vulnerable adults and older people and people whose independence needs to be supported by intervention from the public or voluntary sector.

## **10.0 Co-opted Members**

10.1 In addition to the County Councillors on the committee, there are also three co-opted members, two representing the voluntary and community sector, one appointed by the Independent Care Group to represent independent care sector providers. Their role can be summarised as:

- Attending and play an active part in the meetings of the Committee, in meetings of any working groups to which they are appointed by the Committee, and in seminars and training sessions provided by the County Council.
- Representing the interests and views of all the sector, not just those of their own organisation or area of interest.
- Informing other providers and organisations in the sector of issues being considered by the Committee and encourage them to respond to the issues.
- Taking information and views from the sector and providers (and the people they work with and for) to communicate directly with the Committee.
- Being available for personal contact by those organisations.
- Liaising with their sector to contribute to written briefings to be circulated in their sector.

## **11.0 Work programme**

11.1 The topics for overview and scrutiny are identified by the committee Chairs, Vice-Chairs, Spokespersons and Members, advised by the relevant overview and scrutiny officer, using some of the following sources of information:

- Performance data, information and analysis, in particular when it has been benchmarked against similar local authorities
- Inspection reports, such as those produced by the Care Quality Commission or OFSTED
- National research findings
- National policy changes
- National and local consultations and public engagement events
- County Council Plan
- County Council budget and delivery against savings proposals and targets
- Agendas for Executive
- Local issues raised by elected members, members of the public or highlighted in the media
- Local networks and partnerships.

11.2 Where an initial area of interest or line of inquiry is identified, further information is gathered to ascertain whether this is a valid area for scrutiny that will add value and not duplicate work that is already underway.

- 11.3 On every agenda for formal meetings of the overview and scrutiny committees, there is an item on the committee work programme. This provides Members with an opportunity to reflect on the issues that have been identified and assure themselves that they are appropriate for the committee.
- 11.4 Your chairman has emailed you already advising that the previous membership agreed three overarching themes (attached) of work. This is reflected in the work programme (attached). Proposals for joint working with the Scrutiny of Health Committee on aspects of Health and Social Care Integration are included as a separate paper under this item.

## **12.0 Further information**

- Further information on Overview and Scrutiny is available on the NYCC website - <http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/23665/Scrutiny>
- The overview and scrutiny officer supporting the work of this committee is: Ray Busby E: [ray.busby@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:ray.busby@northyorks.gov.uk) T: 01609 532655
- You can also contact the Scrutiny Team Leader, Daniel Harry
- E: [daniel.harry@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:daniel.harry@northyorks.gov.uk) T: 01609 533531.
- Committee papers are available from the North Yorkshire County Council website as follows - <http://democracy.northyorks.gov.uk/>

## **13.0 Recommendation**

- 13.1 That Members review the Committee's work programme, taking into account issues highlighted in this report, the outcome of discussions on previous agenda items and any other developments taking place across the County.

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Scrutiny Team Leader

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14 June 2017

Background Documents Nil

## Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee

### Scope

The needs of vulnerable adults and older people and people whose independence needs to be supported by intervention from the public or voluntary sector

### Meeting Details

|                     |                                                          |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Committee Meetings  | Thursday 29 June 2017 at 10.30am                         |
|                     | Thursday 28 September 2017 at 10.30am                    |
|                     | Thursday 14 December 2017 at 10.30am                     |
|                     | Thursday 22 March 2018 at 10.30am                        |
|                     | Thursday 10 May 2018 at 10.30am                          |
| Mid Cycle Briefings | Thursday 24 August 2017 at 10.30am (date may be changed) |
|                     | Thursday 9 November 2017 at 10.30am                      |
|                     | Thursday 15 February 2018 at 10.30am                     |

### Programme

| BUSINESS FOR THURSDAY 29 JUNE 2017 |                                                                                  |                                                                                                           |              |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| SUBJECT                            | AIMS/PURPOSE                                                                     | COMMENTS                                                                                                  | LEAD         |
| Assessment Reablement Pathway      | Review of how service has changed and where it sits in terms of handling demand. | Part of agreed "Social Care demand and resource management" theme. 2020 savings element to be considered. | Mike Webster |
| Dementia Strategy                  | Results of consultation exercise and content/approach of new strategy            |                                                                                                           | Michael Rudd |
| Health and Social Care Integration | Scrutiny of the integration of health, mental health and adult social care       | Approval of work plans                                                                                    | Ray Busby    |

|                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                              |                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                                                              | commissioning and service provision in North Yorkshire<br>Scrutiny of workforce shortages in health, mental health and social care in North Yorkshire                                                                          |                                                                                                                              |                                |
| Social Care Overview focusing on state of social care market | Introduction for new committee                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                              | Richard Webb                   |
| <b>BUSINESS FOR THURSDAY 28 SEPTEMBER</b>                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                              |                                |
| <b>SUBJECT</b>                                               | <b>AIMS/PURPOSE</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>COMMENTS</b>                                                                                                              | <b>LEAD</b>                    |
| Intermediate Care                                            | item in relation to Health and Social care Integration Theme                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                              | Kathy Clark/Louise Wallace     |
| Independent Advocacy                                         | Revisit Advocacy one year into the current contract and assess Care Act compliance. Dialogue with Providers on commissioning and operation of service. Where the service fits in relation to achievement of overall objectives | Will cover advocates experiences, how they work, what obstacles they face.                                                   | Avril Hunter                   |
| Suicide Audit                                                | Update                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                              | Claire Robinson                |
| Alcohol Strategy                                             | Update                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                              | Claire Robinson                |
| Local Account                                                | Is the account an honest assessment of social care performance, is it accessible.                                                                                                                                              | Before it is published, the Committee takes the opportunity to review, pass comment and make suggestions for any amendments. | Tony Law                       |
| Annual report of Safeguarding Board                          | Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whether safeguarding arrangements are effective.</li> <li>Board governance is sound;</li> </ul>                                                                                  | May be part of a wider analysis of safeguarding trends. May be extended to include safeguarding training                     | Sheila Hall/Chair of the Board |



|                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                               |                |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
|                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnership strength and commitment</li> <li>community prevention</li> <li>strategic links with other partnerships in localities</li> </ul>                |                                                                                               |                |
| <b>BUSINESS FOR THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER 2017</b>        |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                               |                |
| <b>SUBJECT</b>                                       | <b>AIMS/PURPOSE</b>                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>COMMENTS</b>                                                                               | <b>LEAD</b>    |
| Mental Health Strategy Update                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                               | Kathy Clark    |
| Community Mental Health Pathways                     | item in relation to Health and Social care Integration Theme                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                               |                |
| Commissioning                                        | linkages between strategic policies and commissioning, and the commissioning process                                                                                                              |                                                                                               | Kathy Clark    |
| Learning Disabilities Service                        | Changes to the service focusing on user participation and co-design of services. Possible strategy consideration                                                                                  | Part of "Social Care demand and resource management" theme. May take in Complex Needs Update. | Joss Harbron   |
| Care Provider Standards                              | How we can be confident that North Yorkshire care providers, particularly those who operate residential establishments, are satisfactorily meeting appropriate quality standards and requirements |                                                                                               |                |
| Dialogue with Care Quality Commission Representative | Follow up to discussion with CQC about inspection regime.                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                               | Janine Tranmer |

#### **Mid Cycle Briefing Items**

| <b>Date</b>    | <b>Probable Item</b>         |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| 24 August 2017 | Complaints and Commendations |
|                | Possible NYLAF update        |
|                | NY Alcohol Strategy Update   |

| Date            | Probable Item                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                 | Commissioning - linkages between strategic policies and commissioning, and the commissioning process                                                       |
| 9 November 2017 | New Horizons Assessment of state of commissioned service<br>Angela Hall/Providers                                                                          |
|                 | Assessment of state of commissioned service<br>Georgina Wilkinson (Public Health) and Tina Ramsey from YorSexualHealth, the provider, will give an update. |

### THEME 1

Integrating Health and Social  
Care Services

Intermediate Care

Community Health Pathways

Workforce (to be agreed)

### THEME 2

Resource Management and  
Social Care

Commissioning and Strategic  
Priorities

Assessment and Re-ablement  
(handling demand)

User Participation and Co-  
design

Prevent Reduce Delay

### ASSURANCE & OVERVIEW

Programmed Individual items

Safeguarding (including  
Annual Board Report)

Local Account

Learning Disabilities Strategy

Mental Health Strategy  
Update

Public Health Initiatives