

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Committee****Overview and Scrutiny at North Yorkshire County Council****21 July 2017****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 she 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 Co-opted Members**

9.1 In addition to the County Councillors on the committee, there are also a number of co-opted members, some voting some non-voting (see attached).

## **10.0 Work programme**

10.1 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.

10.2 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.

10.3 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.

10.4 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).

## 11.0 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/>

# YOUNG PEOPLES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

## **Scope**

The Council's corporate organisation and structure, resource allocation, asset management, procurement policy, people strategy, equality & diversity, performance management, communication and access to services.

Partnership working, community development, community engagement, community strategies and community safety. This Committee shall be the Crime & Disorder Committee for the purposes of Part 3 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.

## **Meeting Details**

Committee	Friday, 21 July 2017 at 10.00am (revised from 8 June 2017)
	Friday, 8 September 2017 at 10.30am
	Friday 8 December 2017 at 10.30am
	Friday 9 March 2018 at 10.30am
Mid Cycle Briefing	Friday 20 October 2017 at 10.30am
	Friday 19 January 2018 at 10.30am

Programme

Friday 21 July 2017			
SUBJECT	AIMS/PURPOSE	COMMENTS	LEAD
School exclusions	Prevalence, profile and role of local authority. How do we respond, what are the support arrangements, how is the picture changing	Start with engagement session with young people in breakout rooms	Cerys Townend, Jane Le Sage
Friday 8 September 2017			
SUBJECT	AIMS/PURPOSE	COMMENTS	LEAD
Safeguarding	Chairman of Childrens Safeguarding Board presents Annual report. Dialogue about commitment of partners to Safeguarding agenda.	Possibly part of a wider consideration of safeguarding.	Nick Frost
Roles and Responsibilities of Parent Governors	The changing role of governors and their responsibilities for performance. What is the picture regarding effective governance and the extent to which schools are transparent and open about their decision making? How the local authority provides training and support, information and clerking services. With whom do councillors, as community leaders in particular, need to work.	There is a desire to understand better the new lines of accountability: How can we be sure about the integrity of financial information and the robustness of controls and risk management; are governance arrangements ensuring that school bodies, governors in particular, are applying appropriate values and exhibiting appropriate behaviour.	Paul Brennan
Pupil Premium	An understanding of local practices and what works best and comparing local schools' application of the funding and schools in other councils. Outcomes - which children appear to be benefitting.	Challenging the use of the pupil premium.	

	Do all schools comply with their statutory obligations with regards to publication		
Friday 8 December 2017			
Early Intervention in Schools on Smoking, Drugs, Alcohol	Preventing drug, alcohol and tobacco use in young people and interventions for those already experiencing harm.	Possible focus on commissioning - is it integrated across prevention and specialist interventions and the wider children's agenda	Katie Needham Emma Thomas Julie Firth
Traded Services	The status, future and effect on traded services of recent and planned changes in educational provision.	Possibly looking at the range of services being provided, whether "traded" or otherwise, and how the pattern of services are likely to change in the future	Anton Hodge
Hospital Admissions	Especially mental health services support for young people, managing cases in the community. The contribution of inappropriate placements and/or insufficient community resources.	Possibly then followed up by a series of discussions with key health personnel on causes of admission, substance abuse, self-harm, eating disorders etc.	Emma Thomas Julie Firth
Place planning. Shaping future education provision	Our projections about need/demand and how the LEA shapes/influences provision. Working with the schools commissioner	Possibly linked to admissions analysis and understanding of exclusions	
Friday 9 March 2018			
Supporting Underperforming Schools - especially those in Special Measures	How does the authority address its statutory requirements such as: requiring schools to "enter into arrangements", specified support; appoint additional governors; suspend delegated budget.		Paul Brennan
School Admissions - status	How work under diversified schools governance. Our admission procedures now and how we expect them, and schools and MAT's attitudes to them, to change. How place allocations are made;	Focus on an account of the customer experience	William Burchill

### Mid Cycle Briefing Items

Date	Probable Item
Friday 23 June 2017	Keeping Children Safe in North Yorkshire <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Roles and Responsibilities of Parent Governors</li><li>• Pupil Premium</li><li>• Reprise of Closing the Gap work</li></ul> Planning for items before the September Committee meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Supporting Underperforming Schools - especially those in Special Measures</li></ul>
Friday 20 October 2017	Short Breaks Implementation of changes - 1 year review Early Intervention in Schools on Smoking, Drugs, Alcohol
Friday 19 January 2018	

