

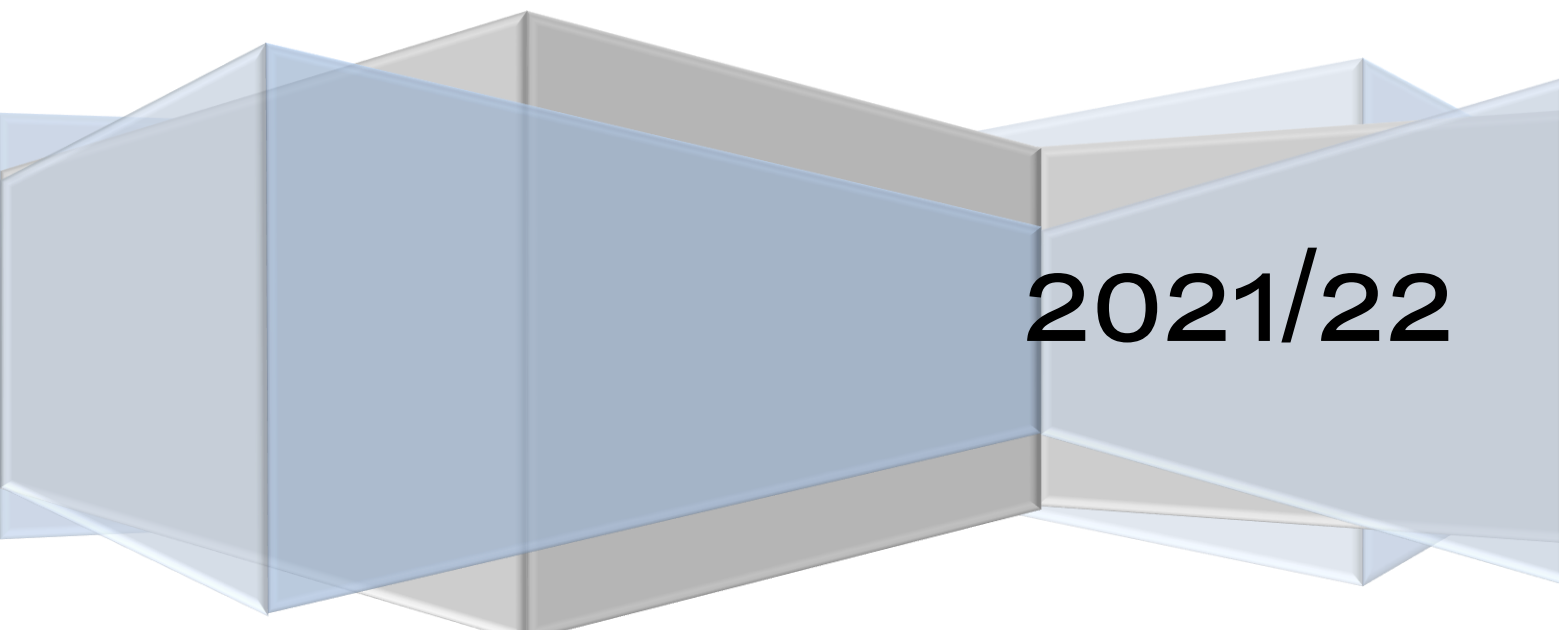


North Yorkshire
County Council

Overview and Scrutiny

Annual Report

Cllr Karin Sedgwick, Chairman of the NYCC Scrutiny Board and Daniel Harry, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager



2021/22

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22



Foreword by County Councillor Karin Sedgwick Chair of Scrutiny Board

As Chair of the Scrutiny Board, I am pleased to introduce the 2021/22 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report.

The circumstances of the last year have continued to be challenging for us all. It has been important for Members involved in overview and scrutiny to ensure we have been supportive of the efforts of frontline services in their ongoing response to the pandemic, but also to support and shape the transition to the new normal in the future.

On reviewing the achievements of the last year, I am confident that we achieved this, with continued success in terms of operating remotely. The future will move towards in person Committee meetings once again and this poses new challenges in adapting and managing this process successfully once more.

We also now move forward to the beginning of a new Unitary Council and the changes and challenges that will bring. I am confident that this will provide new opportunities for both new and re-elected Councillors to work together to ensure Scrutiny remains a priority, allowing transparency and accountability to be visible throughout the transitional period.

During the period from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022, there have been 24 live broadcasted meetings of the council's scrutiny committees, plus another 27 meetings of the Area Constituency Committees. I must commend colleagues, officers and partners for their respective roles in continuing to make this possible.

I would like to record my appreciation to all of the Scrutiny Board Members for their contribution during this past year and wish them well in whatever the future holds for them.

I commend this report to the council.

Introduction

During 2021/22 the Council's overview and scrutiny committees continued to successfully meet virtually via Teams.

Following the Annual General Meeting of Full Council on 18 May 2022 decision making committees have begun to meet in person once again.

An update has been provided, below, on some of the key topics considered by each of the thematic overview and scrutiny committees, along with an outline of key areas of work for the year ahead.

Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Committee has considered a range of topics and presentations to develop its understanding of issues, raise its awareness and provide challenge as part of its overview and scrutiny function.

The committee's focus over the last 12 months has included:

- Outdoor Learning Service Review
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Strategy Update
- North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NYSCP) Annual Report 2020/2021
- Medical Education Service – Review/Update on Implementation
- Early Years Briefing
- Annual Report of the Child Death Overview Panel for 2020/2021
- Children's Mental Health
- Schools Update
- Annual Report of the Young People's Champion.

Looking ahead to the next year, key areas of focus for the Committee will include:

- Young carers who support adults with mental health issues:
- North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership – Annual Report
- Child Death Overview Panel
- Financial position – Children and Young People's Service
- Adoptions – Annual Report of One Adoption, North and Humber
- Annual Update from the Young People's Champion
- Schools Update
- Discussion with Members of North Yorkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education.

Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Over the last 12 months the committee has been:

- Maintaining an overview of the impact of Covid-19 on the care market
- Understanding the impact of Covid-19 on the independent care sector and how the sector has survived the crisis
- Reviewing the directorate's Local Account for North Yorkshire
- Living Well – reviewing experiences over the last year and reflections on the impact of the pandemic.
- Revisiting a review of how NYCC is ensuring that direct payments enable more choice and control over the support people receive and how this meets their social care needs
- Examining how the pandemic has affected user voices and participation

- Reviewing the prevalence and related issues in relation to suicide prevention
- Understanding the stresses on the workforce across the social care sector
- Revisiting the intentions and objectives of the All Age Autism Strategy and how the pandemic has affected implementation.

Looking ahead, the committee's work programme will include:

- Revisiting the market intervention in supported living
- Assessment of the experience of winter 2021/22 (including Covid) and adult social care
- Managing the care market, looking at the current position (12 months since previous report) relating to approved provider list, Covid impact and measures
- Support for carers looking at support provided to adult carers of adults in North Yorkshire
- Dementia care facility
- The care gap and other financial matters with a review of the impact of the lifetime cap on the amount anyone in England will need to spend on their personal care
- An overview of day services and how the pandemic has changed the demand for these services
- Digital lives - technology enabled care, financial assessment and supporting people and their independence in their own homes.

Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Over the last 12 months the committees focus has included:

- Vehicle activated speed signs
- 20mph speed limits
- Single use plastics and waste and recycling in general
- Rural bus services
- Broadband and mobile phone coverage
- Flood prevention and management
- Rural bus transport.

Over the next year, the key areas of focus for the Committee will include:

- Annual Report on the performance of NY Highways
- An overview of large scale infrastructure development in North Yorkshire
- Bus services update (Bus Service Improvement Plans – BSIP and demand responsive bus Service
- Carbon reduction plan update
- Electric vehicle charging
- Allerton waste recovery park
- Road casualties
- Rural commission work – esp. local energy generation in rural communities
- Flood prevention – gulley clearance and maintenance
- Waste collection and disposal update.
- 20 mph speed limit policy implementation
- Countryside access.

Corporate & Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Over the last year, the committee has:

- Reviewed progress around property services and the rationalisation of NYCC's property portfolio
- Continued to develop its understanding of the threat to the council's operations posed by cybercrime and the measures in place to counteract this threat
- Received bi-annual updates from the Community Safety Partnership
- Reviewed an update on improvements to the Parish Portal
- Received an update on the Youth Justice Service Performance.

Looking ahead, the Committee's work programme will include performance updates from:

- NYCC Property Services
- Stronger Communities
- Customer Access
- Youth Justice
- Resilience and Emergencies
- Community Safety
- Investment Strategy.

Scrutiny of Health Committee

Over the last year, the committee has focused on the following:

- Mental health services, particularly the move from in patient to more specialist enhanced community services
- Follow up on CQC inspections and improvement plans, particularly for mental health services
- The development of the Whitby Hospital and the Scarborough Hospital sites
- Hyper acute stroke pathways for people in the Harrogate and Scarborough Hospital catchments
- Workforce shortages and the effect this has on the development of NHS services
- The long term impact of the pandemic on changing how services are accessed and delivered, including the greater use of technology
- Access to NHS Dentistry and potential changes to the commissioning of NHS dental services
- Continuing to work with Area Constituency Committee's on local health issues.

Looking ahead, the committee's programme of work will include:

- Changes to NHS structures, the creation of the Integrated Care Systems, Partnerships and Boards
- Changes to primary care and the possible emergence of a more integrated models of delivery, with a range of services accessed in the community
- Centralisation of specialist hospital services with the accompanying increase in assessment, diagnostic and outpatients interventions at local hospitals
- Collaboration between hospitals over the provision of services and sharing key staff
- Waiting lists for assessment, treatment and surgery (52 weeks and 18 weeks)
- Finance pressures with the local NHS system
- Mental health services, access, range of services and CQC inspections

- Access to community based wider health services: dentistry; chiropody/podiatry; continence support; audiology.

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, along with the Champions for Young People and Older People, and enables co-ordination across all five thematic overview and scrutiny committees.
- Police, Fire and Crime Panel - which scrutinises the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. There is also a Complaints Sub-Committee which meets on an ad-hoc basis. The County Council is the host authority for the Panel and the Panel is supported by the County Council's scrutiny team, along with officers providing guidance from Legal, Communications and Finance.
- Corporate Parenting 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 Executive and County Council. The group performs a role consistent with statutory guidance for local authorities to promote the health and well-being of looked-after children.

North Yorkshire Scrutiny Officers' Network

This group is an informal information-sharing group for overview and scrutiny officer leads across North Yorkshire, York and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. Over the last year, the network has considered issues such as:

- How the response to the pandemic and the recovery from it has been scrutinised across the area
- Approach to the scrutiny of the work of the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner
- Co-ordination of work around the scrutiny of the Rural Commission Report and recommendations
- Clarification on routes for engagement with the Local Enterprise Partnership and their annual scrutiny review process
- Local Government Review and the role of scrutiny in a new unitary authority
- Issues relating to the Scrutiny of Health committee work programme.

The network has also provided a key forum for the sharing of information and ideas, initially around setting up and managing remote access committee meetings and now sharing best practise on how we adapt to moving back to in person or hybrid meetings. This group will also be invaluable in the transition to the new Unitary Council with relationships already established within the scrutiny function across the County.

Call-In

There have been no Call-Ins in 2021/22.

In-depth reviews

There have been no in-depth, stand-alone overview and scrutiny reviews over the past 12 months. There has been, however, ongoing scrutiny of a number of areas of work, including:

- The impact of changes to hyper acute stroke services at Scarborough Hospital
- Provision of and access to mental health services in the county
- Single use plastics and waste and recycling in general
- 20mph speed limits
- The impact of the pandemic upon services both during the pandemic itself and then in the recovery and rebuilding phases.

Other Approaches

Work with Area Constituency Committees

The council's six Area Constituency Committees (ACC's) have continued to work closely with the overview and scrutiny committees and particularly with the Scrutiny of Health Committee. Examples include:

- Richmond (Yorks) ACC – the development of the Catterick Health Campus
- Thirsk and Malton ACC - project that is being set up across health and social care to look at developing primary care and ancillary services in and around Easingwold
- Scarborough and Whitby ACC – the development of services at Scarborough and Whitby Hospitals.

Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Virtual User Participation and Engagement

The COVID-19 pandemic created unusual challenges for engaging with users of our services. The committee wanted to understand how the pandemic has affected user voices and participation. Informal, virtual meetings were held with representatives from the North Yorkshire Disability Forum and the North Yorkshire Learning Disability Partnership Board.

These groups contain hard-working and committed community representatives, who, - prior to lockdown held regular face to face meetings across the county with at least one meeting somewhere in the county every week. They look at work plans, strategy delivery and projects in local communities. Meeting in a virtual environment was always going to give an up to date, informed picture of how successful people had been in adjusting to the constraints of the pandemic.

Some users described how, because of social distancing, they were missing the physical contact with others that they had relied on before the pandemic. However, most agreed that digital meetings and different ways of being involved are here to stay and, used well, can enhance service users' voices.

In summary, the committee found that people had responded in a way, which suggests the whole experience has been empowering, with all opinions and diverse views being encouraged and respected.

Joint Scrutiny

The West Yorkshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee has continued to meet to review the development of the Integrated Care System for West Yorkshire, which includes Craven population and which has implications for the Harrogate population. It is anticipated that similar arrangements will be put in place for the Humber Coast and Vale Integrated Care System over the next year.

The Committee has also been involved in the following pieces of work over the past twelve months:

- Development session facilitated by the Kings Fund
- West Yorkshire Cancer Alliance Update
- Ongoing Covid 19 Updates
- West Yorkshire vaccination programme
- Nightingale Hospitals update
- Governance implications of the Health and Care Bill
- Draft Constitution of the West Yorkshire Integrated Care System
- Pressures on the Yorkshire Autism System.

How to find out more about Overview and Scrutiny:

Further information on Overview and Scrutiny is available on the North Yorkshire County Council website - [Overview and scrutiny | North Yorkshire County Council](#)

Or contact the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager, Daniel Harry
E: daniel.harry@northyorks.gov.uk or T: 01609 533531.

Members of the public are welcome to attend any meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Where these are conducted via live broadcast and previous meetings may be viewed at www.northyorks.gov.uk/live-meetings/

Committee papers are available from the North Yorkshire County Council website as follows - <http://edemocracy.northyorks.gov.uk/>