

North Yorkshire Council

Full Council

12 July 2024

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive, Legal and Democratic Services

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To bring to the attention of the Council the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2023/24.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24 is provided at Appendix A, on behalf of the Chair of Scrutiny Board, Councillor Karin Sedgwick and the Principle Scrutiny Officer, Diane Parsons.

3.0 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24.

3.1 The report highlights key activity by the council's Overview and Scrutiny function over the period from May 2023 to the beginning of April 2024 in its role of holding the Executive to account and ensuring that value is added to the Council's ongoing work to improve outcomes for customers and communities.

3.2 All decision-making Committees continue to meet in person once again, with some Committees utilising a successful and pragmatic hybrid option for external presenters and additional attendees when possible.

4.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 No alternative options were considered.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no significant financial considerations.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

7.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

8.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no climate change implications arising from this report.

9.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 To share with Full Council the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees during 2023/24.

10.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

Council is invited to:

10.1 note the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2023/24; and

10.2 consider whether there are any issues arising from the Annual Report which need to be factored into the work programmes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees in 2024/25.

APPENDICES:

Appendix A – Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None

Barry Khan
Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services
County Hall
Northallerton
12th July 2024

Report Author – Alice Fox, Senior Scrutiny Officer.
Presenter of Report – Councillor Karin Sedgwick, Chair of Scrutiny Board.

Note: Members are invited to contact the author in advance of the meeting with any detailed queries or questions.



Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report

Councillor Karin Sedgwick, Chair of the North Yorkshire Council Scrutiny Board and Diane Parsons, Principal Scrutiny Officer.

2023/24

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24



Foreword by Councillor Karin Sedgwick, Chair of Scrutiny Board

As Chair of the Scrutiny Board, I am pleased to introduce the 2023/24 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report.

It has been just over 12 months since we became a North Yorkshire Council, and I am pleased to say that Members involved in Overview and Scrutiny have embraced the changes in their remits and responsibilities. Councillors continue to work closely with officers, services and partners to ensure that Scrutiny remains a priority.

Bringing the former NYCC and district and borough councils together has given us the opportunity to carry out a thorough scrutiny review. We have looked at how scrutiny was previously delivered in North Yorkshire and have introduced a dedicated team of scrutiny officers to support the scrutiny function.

With Covid restrictions now behind us, we are back to holding in-person meetings, with some hybrid options also being available. Members have engaged in meaningful conversations with a range of services, providing challenge and questions to make sure that there is transparency and accountability.

During the period from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024, there have been:

- 24 formal Scrutiny Committee meetings
- 2 informal Scrutiny Committee meetings
- 1 Call-In Meeting
- 1 Member Site Visit

In addition to these, there have also been 26 meetings of the Area Constituency Committees.

I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to colleagues, officers and partners for their ongoing support which has made the transition to the new Unitary Authority a smooth process with minimal impact on our communities.

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

I commend this report to the Council.

Care and Independence and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Chair: Councillor Karin Sedgwick

Purpose: To scrutinise the planning, commissioning, and delivery of services for vulnerable adults, older people and people whose independence needs to be supported by intervention from the public or voluntary sector and housing.

Council Ambition: Every adult has a longer, healthier and independent life.

Summary of issues addressed, engagement activities and updates received over the last 12 months:

- **Care Homes and Assisted Living Accommodation**

As part of the remit of the Care and Independence and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee, we looked at Care Homes and Assisted Living accommodation in North Yorkshire. It was suggested some time ago, that we arrange a visit to Kirkwood Hall in Leyburn. The visit took place in November 2023 and a number of committee members attended. They met with staff and residents and looked at some of the assisted living elements being used by residents. They then had the opportunity to discuss and ask questions.

- **Receiving and scrutinising annual reports:**

- Older People's Champion 2022/23 – Councillor Caroline Dickinson provided a summary of key areas reviewed and priorities for the coming year.
- Director of Public Health 2022/23 – “Our Words: A Child's Life in North Yorkshire”, covers Early Years; Primary; Secondary; and Late Adolescence and Early Childhood.

- **Receiving updates, presentations and briefings:**

- Next Generation Extra Care – update on progress and the statement on the ambition to see Extra Care in all key towns in 2023.
- Digital Lives – discussion around technology enabled care, online care, financial assessments and brokerage to support and enhance the experience of people and their independence in their own homes.
- Unpaid Carers – overview of the support provided to adult carers of adults in North Yorkshire.
- Direct Payments – update of how NYC is ensuring that Direct Payments help to enable more choice and control over the support people receive, and how their social care needs are met.

- Development of the Integrated Care Systems and Partnerships that cover North Yorkshire – discussion about what it means for social care and the risks.
- Suicide Prevention and Audit – update on activity, prevalence and action.
- Local Account – a review of the published account.
- Dementia Care – update on provision and strategy development.
- Domestic Abuse Policy – information on the aims and scope of the new policy.
- Housing Strategy – the committee received an overview on housing and the strategy, the Council's ambitions, priorities and targets, and how we fulfil our role as a strategic housing authority.
- Adult Social Care Pressures and Charging reform (Trailblazer) – update on cost of generic home care and target date for the restart of ASC charging reform.

It was agreed at Full Council on 15 May 2024 that a new Housing and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be established. This would draw consideration of housing matters out of the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee, bringing it into its own committee, thereby ensuring that this broad brief can be given the focus that will be needed.

The Committee's work programme for 2024/25 is currently being finalised, but possible areas of interest include:

- Progress update on extra care delivery
- Shared Lives Scheme
- Transforming care and current supported housing service overview
- Care and Accommodation Update
- Changes to Care Provider services after the pandemic
- Progress on a transformational approach to short breaks

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Chair: Councillor Barbara Brodigan

Purpose: To scrutinise the planning, commissioning, and delivery of services for children, young people and their families, including education, care and protection, and family support.

Council Ambitions: Every child and young person has the best possible start in life.

The main focus for the year has been establishing a dedicated task and finish group that reviewed the SEND provision in Scarborough and Whitby.

Summary of issues addressed, engagement activities and updates received over the last 12 months:

- **A Scrutiny Task and Finish Group focussing on SEND provision in Scarborough and Whitby.**

At Full Council meeting on 17 May 2023, the Chair of the Committee accepted a proposal to establish a Scrutiny Task and Finish Group to look at SEND Provision in the Scarborough area. The Committee agreed to extend the review to include Whitby. The key areas of focus included: looking at how parents/carers of children and young people with SEND are supported in their children's education; and how can access to information, advice and support be improved. A Working Party looked at key information regarding SEND in North Yorkshire. Further data was collated by: holding face to face engagement sessions with parents, carers, school governors, charities and a commercial provider; taking Scarborough and Whitby data from a county wide SEND survey; receiving feedback from 2 focus group sessions organised by Parent Carer Voice. A report with key findings and recommendations was presented to the Scarborough and Whitby Area Constituency Committee in March 2024 and the Executive Committee in April 2024. An update will be taken to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee later on this year.

- **The Call-In request regarding an Executive decision.**

In March 2024, an additional committee meeting convened following a Call-In request after the Executive decision to cease to maintain a primary school due to no pupils on roll. The Committee listened to the Ward Councillor, public statements from the Parish Councillor and a local parent, and from the Corporate Director. Whilst understanding that it is always a

difficult decision when considering to cease to maintain a school, the Committee gave due consideration to the information presented to them and agreed by show of hands with the decision made by the Executive.

- **Annual reports:**

- Young Person's Champion 2022/23 – Councillor Alyson Baker presented a summary of events where she met with children and young people, and meetings she attended with officers and agencies working with CYP, especially with young people from the Ukraine and refugees and asylum seekers.
- Child Death Overview Panel 2022/23 – overview of key findings and information on the two priorities for the coming year: "Who's Sober" and "Roadwise".
- North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership 2022/23 – presentation that included referral numbers, achievements within the Sub-Groups and priorities for 2023/24.
- Draft North Yorkshire Substance Use Strategy 2024/26 – the Committee was pleased that Public Health engaged with them on this piece of work whilst the strategy was still being developed.
- Director of Public Health 2022/23 – "Our Words: A Child's Life in North Yorkshire", covers Early Years; Primary; Secondary; and Late Adolescence and Early Childhood.

- **Receiving updates, presentations and briefings:**

- Early Years – presentation focussing on Early Education and Child Care.
- Growing Up in North Yorkshire survey 2022 – summary of the results of the bi-annual survey of primary and secondary pupils.
- Annual Learning and Skills Service – information on Community Education, Adult Skills, High Needs Education and Apprenticeships in Health and Social Care.
- School closures and Governance – presentation covering school closures, process and academies, Governor recruitment, training and retention.
- Children and Young People's Mental Health – impact that social isolation and disruption to education has on CYP mental health, waiting times for treatment for eating disorders, waiting times for autism diagnosis.
- Schools update (organisation, performance, and funding) – presentation including information on number of schools academizing, Ofsted ratings, and finances.
- Transitions/Preparation for Adulthood – summary including training for the SEND Team, pathways support young people moving from Children's Social Care to Adult Social Care
- Healthy Child Service- focussing on the Four Pillars: 0=6yrs; Safeguarding and Children in Care; Emotional Health and Resilience; Infant Feeding, Family Diet and Nutrition.

The Committee's work programme for 2024/25 will include:

- Receiving a report from the Directorate about the school support and governance process that NYC currently provide for primary and secondary schools.
- Strategic Review – general update.
- Receiving feedback from young people about the North Yorkshire Youth Commission and their priorities for the year ahead.
- Exploring whether additional task and finish groups should be established to address key areas to scrutinise on a deeper level.

- **Receiving annual reports from:**
 - Young Person's Champion 2023/4.
 - Child Death Overview Panel 2023/4.
 - North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership 2023/24.
 - North Yorkshire SACRE 2023/4.
 - Director of Public Health 2023/24.

- **Receiving updates, presentations and briefings:**
 - FEAST (Food. Entertainment. Arts. Sport. Together) Festival - how it supports children and young people during the school holidays.
 - Foster Carers Services – numbers/trends and recruitment of foster carers.
 - Children accessing alternative provision (including health needs) – general update.
 - SEND Employment Forum – an update.
 - SEND provision in the Scarborough and Whitby area – update on the recommendations from the Task and Finish Group.
 - Schools update – performance and standards, funding, strategic planning, and financial position.
 - Criminal exploitation - update on the areas where criminals seek to exploit children and young people, e.g., County Lines.

Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Chair: Councillor David Ireton

Purpose: To consider the Council's corporate organisation and structure, resource allocation, asset management, procurement policy, people strategy, equality and diversity, performance managements, communications and access to services. Partnership working, community development, community engagement, community strategies and community safety.

Council Ambitions: Leading for North Yorkshire; North Yorkshire is a place with a strong economy and a commitment to sustainable growth; Innovative and forward-thinking Council.

Summary of issues addressed, engagement and updates received over the last 12 months:

- **Notice of Motion at Full Council**

In July 2023 there was a Notice of Motion proposed at Full Council asking for the ban on trail hunting on Council owned land. The Motion focussed on the practicality of such a ban (and not a broader debate about the pros and cons of hunting with dogs). This generated some public interest and a number of Councillors spoke both in favour and against the Motion. The Committee made a recommendation that trail hunting on Council owned land should not be introduced.

- **North Yorkshire Police Fire & Crime Commissioner**

In March 2024, North Yorkshire Police Fire & Crime Commissioner Zoe Metcalfe attended a Committee meeting and provided an overview of the progress and improvement against the inspection reports produced by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary & Fire and Rescue Services.

- **Receiving annual reviews and reports:**

- Locality Budgets - annual review of Councillor Locality Budgets 2022/23.
- North Yorkshire Refugee Resettlement – annual programme update.
- Community Libraries – annual update.
- Resilience and Emergencies - annual overview of the National Resilience Standards and NYC's current performance, together with an overview of ongoing Resilience and Emergencies work.

- **Receiving updates, presentations and briefings:**

- Workforce Update - including baseline workforce data for the new Council.

- Community Safety - bi-annual updates on Community Safety Plan Delivery & Partnership Working.
- Youth Justice - performance update.
- Stronger Communities - bi-annual update on work of the Stronger Communities team and progress update on the corporate volunteering project.
- Customer Access - update on the operation of the Parish Portal and Parish Council engagement.
- Property Services – including a bi-annual performance update, and an update on property rationalisation.
- Council Plan 2024-28 Development - update on Council Plan Refresh including Review of Council Priorities
- Information Technology - progress update on IT Network and Systems Consolidation.
- Equality and Diversity - overview of progress with achieving the Council's new Equality and Diversity objectives.

The Committee's work programme for 2024/25 will include:

- Workforce Update (including a restructure update).
- North Yorkshire Refugee Resettlement Programme.
- Quarterly Transformation Updates.
- Bi-annual Updates on Community Safety Plan Delivery and Partnership Working.
- Bi-annual Updates on the work of the Stronger Communities Team.

- **Receiving annual updates about:**
 - Locality Budgets.
 - Community Libraries.
 - Youth Justice Annual Performance Update.
 - Operation of the Parish Portal and Parish Council Engagement.
 - Council Plan Refresh including Review of Council Priorities.
 - National Resilience Standards and NYC's Current Performance.
 - Operation of the Customer Portal.

Scrutiny of Health Committee

Chair: Councillor Andrew Lee

Purpose: To review any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services in the County; to act as a lever to improve the health of local people, ensuring that their needs are considered as an integral part of the delivery and development of health services.

Council Ambitions: Every child and young person has the best possible start in life; Every adult has a longer, healthier and independent life.

Summary of issues addressed, engagement and updates received over the last 12 months:

- **Autism Strategy Convening**

The Committee has been very much involved in the progress of the Autism Strategy Convening.

- **Funding for Hospices**

The Committee issued a press release in December 2023 highlighting the issues being faced by the three hospices covering North Yorkshire in relation to a funding crisis. The trusts face a struggle in raising sufficient funding to continue to provide adequate end-of-life and palliative services. This includes specialist inpatient beds, community-based end-of-life care, outpatient clinics, lymphoedema services and bereavement counselling and support. The Chair of the committee agreed to highlight this with colleagues in the NHS in order to ensure we are all doing our utmost to support and raise awareness of this situation.

- **Receiving annual reports from:**

- Director of Public Health.

- **Receiving updates, presentations and briefings about:**

- Response to workforce pressures in adult social care.
- Update from Yorkshire Air Ambulance.
- Primary Care in North Yorkshire from the Integrated care Board.
- NHS Estate Information.

- Hyper Acute Stroke Services across North Yorkshire.
- Urgent care Delivery in York and the East Coast.
- North Yorkshire Place and Planning Infrastructure.
- Update on Catterick Integrated Care Campus.
- Update on the Mental Health Service.
- Tees, Esk and Wear Valley Trust Inspection results.
- North Yorkshire Hospice Care.
- Airedale New Hospital Update.
- Neo Natal Services at Airedale.
- Update on the Autism Strategy.

The Committee's work programme for 2024/25 will include:

- Looking at the referral of a Motion from Full Council (February 2024) in relation to products containing glyphosate or neonicotinoids.
- Strategic Review.
- Feedback from young people about the North Yorkshire Youth Commission.

- **Receiving annual reports from:**
 - Director of Public Health's.
 - 2023/24.

- **Receiving updates, presentation and briefings about:**
 - The Better Care Fund.
 - Yorkshire Ambulance Service update in relation to the new ambulance station in Scarborough including investment plans and staffing model.
 - Implementation of the All Age Autism Strategy.
 - Healthwatch North Yorkshire.

Transition (LGR) Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Chair: Councillor Malcolm Taylor

Purpose: To scrutinise the decisions made by the Executive regarding the creation of the new unitary authority.

Council Ambitions: Leading for North Yorkshire; Every child and young person has the best possible start in life; Every adult has a longer, healthier and independent life; North Yorkshire is a place with a strong economy and a commitment to sustainable growth; Innovative and forward-thinking Council.

Summary of issues addressed, engagement and updates received over the last 12 months:

- **Whitby and Scarborough Harbours Visits**

The Transition (LGR) Overview and Scrutiny Committee visited Whitby and Scarborough harbours to better understand the ports. They also met with the operators at the Whitby Lobster Hatchery.

- **Receiving updates, presentations and briefings about:**

- Customer Services.
- Transformation.
- Community Development.
- Planning Service.
- North Yorkshire Economic Growth Strategy.
- North Yorkshire Destination Management Plan.
- Strategic Leisure Review.
- Mayoral Combined Authority Governance.
- Delivering Restructures.
- Harbour Services
- Bereavement Services.

The Transition (LGR) Overview and Scrutiny Committee formally ceased on 15 May 2024 at the Full Council meeting, with any outstanding work re-allocated (in liaison with Scrutiny Board), to the other overview and scrutiny committees (with the exception of matters relating to leisure and culture).

Transport, Economy, Environment and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Chair: Councillor David Staveley

Purpose: To scrutinise the transport and communications infrastructure of all kinds and how the transport needs of the community are met. Support businesses, economic development and regeneration, helping people develop their skills, including lifelong learning. Sustainable development, climate change strategy, countryside management, waste management, environmental conservation and enhancement flooding and cultural issues.

Council Ambitions: Leading for North Yorkshire; North Yorkshire is a place with a strong economy and a commitment to sustainable growth; Innovative and forward-thinking Council.

Summary of issues addressed, engagement and updates received over the last 12 months:

- **Highways Reinstatements and Road Closure Working Group**

This was established to improve communication with communities and partners regarding the definition of works and try to minimise any negative impact that building and highways works have on communities. The working group worked closely with bus operators to mitigate the effect of road closures, and also liaised with Parish Councils to inform them of the One Network tool for monitoring and communicating road closure information.

- **Consultation with Members**

Utilising informal meetings via Teams helped to improve engagement with Members, providing further scrutiny and meaningful feedback and consultation. This method was particularly effective when formulating the Climate Change Strategy and conducting the Train Station Ticket Office consultation. It would have been very difficult to achieve this through additional in person meetings.

- **Public Engagement**

Referral of questions from ACC brought local issues to the TEE O&S Committee which were then considered from a more strategic view. There was engagement and interest from the North Yorkshire Climate Coalition in making public statements and addressing the committee.

- **Flooding Prevention**

On gully clearances to prevent flooding on highways, Members made several requests to share information and schedules to better inform Councillors and keep them up to date.

- **Review of Motion on Water Quality for improvements in health, wildlife, biodiversity and economy**

At the meeting of Full Council on 19 July 2023, the Chairman decided that a Notice of Motion submitted on water quality for improvements in health, wildlife, biodiversity and economy should be referred to the Transport, Economy, Environment and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration. The motion was then presented on 19 October 2023 to the Transport, Economy, Environment and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee and a series of recommendations were referred back to Full Council for approval. At the meeting of Full Council on 15 November 2023, it was unanimously agreed to support the motion on water quality, accepting in full the recommendations put forward by the Transport, Economy, Environment and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It was also put forward as an additional recommendation at the Council meeting and subsequently agreed that the Transport, Economy, Environment and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee review the motion in six months, which is scheduled for July 2024.

- **Notice of Motion on United Sustainable Development Goals**

At Full Council on 15 November 2023, the Chair decided that a Notice of Motion on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals should be passed to both the TEEE O&S and the Audit Committee for consideration, with the intention of it being considered and responses brought back to the 21 February 2024 meeting of Full Council. The Notice of Motion stated that the council should: a. Adopt the UN SDGs as a framework for informing our local authority's policies, work programs, and initiatives. b. Contribute to the achievement of the UN SDGs through the council strategies and developing plans. c. Actively engage and collaborates with other local authorities, organisations, and community groups to share best practices, experiences, and lessons learned in advancing the UN SDGs. d. Receive an annual report setting out the Council's contributions to the global agenda for sustainable development. It was resolved by TEEE O&S that the following recommendations on the UN SDGs motion be considered by Full Council:

1. The Committee notes that the Council is already working towards delivering some of the objectives that the UN SDGs outline;
2. Ask that the Executive Member for Managing our Environment informs Council Leadership Teams to make them aware of the importance of and the commitment to the UN SDGs,
3. The Council use and reference the UN SDGs in the ongoing development and communication of the Council Plan.

At the Full Council meeting on 21 February 2024, the recommendations were approved unanimously.

The Committee's work programme for 2024/25 will include:

- Six-month review of the Water Quality motion.
- Follow up of 20mph speed limit queries raised (previously raised at a meeting in January 2024).
- 2 x biannual scrutiny updates of the Climate Change Strategy.
- North Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- Tree and Woodland Policy.
- Let's Talk Rubbish.
- North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan.
- Tourism Destination Management Plan & York and North Yorkshire Local Visitor Economy Partnership.
- Major Regeneration Projects Update.
- Support for North Yorkshire businesses.
- Annual Report from the Member Champion for Climate Change.
- Parking Strategy Development.
- HGV Weight Orders.
- Enviro Crime.
- Allerton Waste Recovery Park.

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

Scrutiny Board – this is made up of the Chairs of the six thematic Overview and Scrutiny committees, along with the Champions for Young People, Older People and Climate Change, 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 Council is the host authority for the Panel and the Panel is supported by the 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 Council. The group performs a role consistent with statutory guidance for local authorities to promote the health and well-being of looked-after children.

County and Unitary Councils' Officer Overview and Scrutiny Network

North Yorkshire Council is a member of this group which meets virtually on a quarterly basis. The Network is an opportunity for officers across the county to share information and ideas.

Over the last year, the network has:

- Heard from other County and Unitary Councils on best practice issues.
- Received a summary of how scrutiny structures work within local authorities across the network.
- Received updates on statutory overview and scrutiny guidance.
- Received updates from the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny.

The Network has been helpful during the initial transition to the new Unitary Council and continues to be a useful platform for advice and support.

Call-In

There has been one Call-In in 2023/24 (Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee).

Powers of call in apply to:

- all collective executive decisions (by the Executive and its committees and Area Constituency Committees);
- executive decisions (key or otherwise) by individual Executive Members; and
- key decisions by Officers.

This means that after the decision has been taken there will be a 5 clear working day 'standstill' period from publication of the minutes/decision record (not the date of decision), before the decision can be implemented. This is the call-in period. It allows any six Councillors to call the decision in for review by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

In-depth reviews

There has been one in-depth overview and scrutiny review over the past 12 months, which focussed on SEND provision in Scarborough and Whitby (Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee).

It is anticipated that there will be more reviews and task and finish group set up during the coming year. We now have a dedicated Scrutiny Team who will work closely with the overview and scrutiny committees and senior managers to explore the areas which could benefit from in-depth scrutiny support.

Other Approaches

Work with the Area Constituency Committees

The Council's six Area Constituency Committees (ACC's) have continued to work closely with the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Examples of this collaborative working include:

Skipton and Ripon ACC:

- A petition asking for an investigation into the Upper Nidderdale Federation was submitted to the Skipton and Ripon ACC and the issue was raised with the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Committee is due to receive a report on the roles and responsibilities of governing boards and the relationship between the Local Authority and maintained schools.

Scarborough and Whitby ACC:

- A Scrutiny Review of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provision in the Scarborough and Whitby area involved Members of the ACC and the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The report was considered and endorsed by both Committees before adoption by the Executive at its meeting on 16 April 2024.

The ACCs will continue to work with Scrutiny and Democratic Services to address issues within specific geographical areas.

Directorates

Scrutiny Committees and Officers regularly meet with colleagues in all Directorates to discuss the workplans of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Joint Scrutiny

The West Yorkshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee has continued to meet to discuss issues of strategic concern in health across West and North Yorkshire.

Member Working Groups

Member Working Groups engage with Members across all parties in shaping future policy and strategy. These meetings are private and not published and whilst they are invaluable in assessing views, they are not formal scrutiny.

How to find out more about Overview and Scrutiny:

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

Or contact the Principal Scrutiny Officer, Diane Parsons
Email: diane.parsons@northyorks.gov.uk or T: 01609 532750

Committee papers are available from the North Yorkshire Council website as follows
- [Committee structure | North Yorkshire Council](#)