

SCRUTINY POLICY REVIEWS 2012/13 OF THE SCRUTINY PANELS - FINAL REPORTS**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE****1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide the Scrutiny Committee with the draft recommendations of five of six of the second round of scrutiny policy reviews undertaken between January and March 2013 by the Scrutiny Lead Members and their supporting Panels. It is anticipated that the Health Housing and Adult Service's Policy Review looking at Empty Properties in Sunderland will be considered by the Committee at an extraordinary meeting in May.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The new scrutiny operating commissioning model was introduced for the 2012/13 Municipal Year and is now well underway. As part of the new arrangements the Scrutiny Committee commissioned the Scrutiny Lead Members along with their respective scrutiny panels to undertake two short and focused policy reviews during 2012/13, the topics having been brought forward from discussions at the Annual Scrutiny Conference in May 2012.
- 2.3 Detailed evidence gathering for the second round of 'spotlight' policy reviews took place over a three month period, with each of the Scrutiny Panels agreeing the content, conclusions and recommendations of the final reports at meetings throughout March and April 2013. The final reports of five of the six policy reviews are attached (**Reports 7A to 7E**) and are summarised below:-

Report	Panel	Policy Review Topic
7A	Children's Services	Increasing Young People's Involvement in Service Design and Delivery
7B	City Services	Waste and Recycling - Approach to Resident Engagement
7C	Public Health, Wellness and Culture	Health Protocol
7D	Responsive Services and Customer Care	Domestic Violence
7E	Skills, Economy and Regeneration	Delivery of Apprenticeships in Sunderland

3. POLICY REVIEWS 2012/13 – PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS

Children’s Services Scrutiny Panel

- 3.1 The recommendations of the Increasing Young People’s Involvement in Service Design and Delivery Scrutiny Policy Review 2012/13 are:-
- (a) That Children’s Services explore the potential for an information sharing support mechanism between schools to share examples of best practice in relation to the operation and performance of school councils and also look at the development of links between school governing bodies and young people;
 - (b) That Scrutiny Members consider the possibility of the Scrutiny Committee or representative Scrutiny Panel being actively involved in Takeover Day 2013;
 - (c) That consideration is given, by the Communications Team, to the appointment of a Participation and Engagement Champion to promote and support the work of participation and engagement within the Communications Team.

City Services Scrutiny Panel

- 3.2 The recommendations of the Waste and Recycling - Approach to Resident Engagement Policy Review 2012/13 are:-
- (a) That further update reports be provided on the findings of the Customer Insight Survey to inform a communications campaign for waste and recycling;
 - (b) That the delivery of the new communications campaign be monitored including activities on promoting awareness and involvement in recycling and on tackling inappropriate waste presentation and fly tipping;
 - (c) That further reports be provided on the progress on the delivery of a recycling incentives scheme, the impact on awareness and participation in recycling services and the impacts on recycling performance.

Public Health, Wellness and Culture Scrutiny Panel

- 3.3 There draft Health Protocol provides a framework for the Council, Healthwatch, the Clinical Commissioning Group and the NHS Commissioning Board to work together to:-
- Meet local need;
 - Improve the health and well-being of the local population;
 - Represent the views of the local population;

- Provide value of money; and
- Be accountable.

Responsive Services and Customer Care Scrutiny Panel

3.4 The recommendations of the Domestic Violence Policy Review 2012/13 are:-

That the Council:-

- (a) Undertakes to work with partners to consider the way in which the approach to domestic violence is coordinated strategically across the city;
- (b) Considers how it can raise the awareness of frontline staff and ward councillors across the city to improve signposting to domestic violence services for victims;

That the Safer Sunderland Partnership:-

- (c) Reviews how domestic violence crime is reported to ward councillors and local people in community forums; and
- (d) Delivers the improvement activities detailed within the Safer Sunderland Partnership Delivery Plan within the specified timescales as follows:-
 - (i) Improve information sharing between healthcare services and domestic violence providers by raising awareness of domestic violence amongst a range of health professionals and strengthening the linkages between health and domestic violence
 - (ii) Engages with schools and young peoples services to improve young people's awareness of the warning signs around abuse in teenage relationships and the support available;
 - (iii) Utilises the findings of the Health Needs Assessment undertaken by the PCT to enhance its understanding of domestic violence in the city, map current provision and inform future service planning and commissioning intentions, having particular regard to the needs of BME victims.

Skills, Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel

3.5 The recommendations of the Delivery of Apprenticeships in Sunderland Policy Review 2012/13 are:-

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee considers and endorses the five scrutiny policy reviews presented at **Appendices 7A to 7E**, in particular the recommendations as outlined in Section 3 of this report, prior to submitting to the Cabinet at its June meeting.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Scrutiny Committee Agenda and reports: 14 June 2012

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