

LEAD SCRUTINY MEMBER UPDATE: JULY 2013

JOINT REPORT OF THE LEAD SCRUTINY MEMBERS

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update to the Scrutiny Committee regarding the work of each of the six Lead Scrutiny Members and supporting Panels.

2. SCRUTINY LEAD MEMBER UPDATE

Scrutiny Chair and Vice Chair (Cllrs David Tate and Norma Wright)

- 2.1 The Chair, Vice Chair and Lead Member for Health, Housing and Adult Services have held two meetings with the Head of Care and Support prior to Cabinet taking the decision at its meeting of 19 June 2013 to transfer adult social care and support services to a Local Authority Trading Company. The discussion centred around the model of the Company, the impact of the transfer on both staff and service users, and the overview and scrutiny of this by the Scrutiny Committee going forward.
- 2.2 The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee and the Lead Members for Skills, Economy and Regeneration, accompanied by the Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements and the Scrutiny Coordinator, attended the Centre for Public Scrutiny's 10th Annual Conference; 'Decide, Design, Deliver: Accountable Policies, Services and Outcomes on Tuesday 11 June 2013.
- 2.3 A breakdown of the key themes of the day and the speakers can be found at **Appendix 1** and a verbal update will be provided at the meeting.
- 2.4 The next regional scrutiny network meeting will focus on police and crime and will take place on **Friday 12th July, Sunderland Civic Centre, Council Chamber from 10.00 – 12.30pm**. The meeting will provide an opportunity to share perspectives and experiences of how the new police and crime arrangements have been working; to exchange views about good practice; and to network with other members and officers. It will also explore how the intense period of activity over the last few months has been tackled and what the opportunities for working collaboratively going forward are. Police and Crime Commissioners from the Northumbria and Durham force areas will be in attendance to give their views. Scrutiny members are encouraged to attend.

Children's Services (Cllr Debra Waller)

- 2.5 The Children's Services Scrutiny Panel is to look at Childhood Obesity as its main piece of work over the coming year. A scoping paper will be submitted to the next meeting of the Panel.

- 2.6 The Panel is also to undertake a smaller piece of work to review and gather information around some of the measures and work taking place in the Safeguarding Service around sexual exploitation. There is a lot of work currently on going locally and nationally to provide a multi-agency approach to this extremely important issue.

City Services (Cllr Stephen Bonallie)

- 2.7 The Panel met on 3 June 2013 to agree its policy review topics for the year ahead. The Panel agreed to focus on licensing and flood management.
- 2.8 The Panel's review into refuse collection and waste management and the development of communications and public engagement will be submitted to the meeting of the Cabinet scheduled for 17 July 2013. Cllr Bonallie as Lead Member will be in attendance to introduce the report.
- 2.9 The next meeting of the Panel will be held on 18 July 2013. The meeting will agree the remit and scope of the review into licensing and also receive background information on the issues involved.

Health, Housing and Adult Services (Cllr Christine Shattock)

- 2.10 The Health, Housing and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel have held an initial scoping meeting to discuss the review into Supporting Carers. The Panel have held a scene setting meeting and agreed terms of reference for the review. The review will concentrate on looking at issues around the identification and recognition of carers in the city as well as how the Multi-Agency Sunderland Carers Strategy can enhance support further.
- 2.11 The Panel will convene again on 18 July 2013 to meet with the Executive Director and Portfolio Holder for Health, Housing and Adult Services. This meeting will provide an opportunity for the Executive Director and Portfolio Holder respectively to discuss some of the key themes around the policy review with panel members. This is a meeting that has worked well in the past and provided some key points to be taken forward during the review investigations.
- 2.12 Further evidence gathering activities will be coordinated between the Scrutiny Lead Member and the Scrutiny Officer including site visits, meetings and an Expert Jury Event aimed at capturing a wide and diverse range of opinions around the topic review. A review timetable is published for every meeting which provides members with a clear summary of the work conducted and the scheduled tasks and activities to be undertaken.

Public Health, Wellness and Culture (Cllr George Howe)

- 2.13 The Panel will be pursuing a review of public engagement in the health service. This will involve reviewing the adequacy of services to meet the key requirement of '*meaningful engagement with patients, carers and their*

communities'. The Panel will be exploring all the areas of public engagement in the health service and will be developing an evidence gathering schedule which includes, amongst others, Healthwatch Sunderland, Clinical Commissioning Group, CQC and various patient participation groups.

- 2.14 The review will provide a framework to encompass all routes for engagement and help ensure that public engagement is coordinated.
- 2.15 Additionally, the Panel will also consider Suicide Preventative Services at one meeting including the implementation of the national strategy 'Preventing Suicide in England' published in 2012.

Skills, Economy and Regeneration (Cllr Tom Martin)

- 2.16 The Panel met on 30 May 2013 to agree its policy review topics for the year. The Panel agreed to look at the Diversification of the Local Economy and the implications of a Business Improvement District on the regeneration of Sunderland.
- 2.17 The Panel's review into the delivery of apprenticeships in Sunderland was considered by the Cabinet on 19 June 2013. Cllr Martin attended the meeting to introduce the report which was approved and its recommendations accepted.
- 2.18 The next meeting of the Panel will be held on 24 July 2013. The meeting will agree the remit and scope of the review into the Diversification of the Local Economy.

Responsive Services and Customer Care (Cllr Iain Kay)

- 2.19 The Panel will be investigating volunteering with a focus on increasing community capacity.
- 2.20 The review will identify what the council can do to unlock the capacity within communities including where we are now, what approaches could be taken and what challenges are faced. This is seen as a highly topical and relevant review which will contribute to identifying community needs and how they can be met at an earlier stage within the community. This would reduce demand on statutory and local services and also build community resilience.
- 2.21 The review may focus on voluntary services to support victims of crime, offenders, their families and the community, or possibly VCS involvement in community and cultural services.

3. CHANGES TO PANEL MEMBERSHIPS

- 3.1 Non-executive Members have now been allocated to a scrutiny panel, membership of the panels has been decided in accordance with current political arrangements.
- 3.2 Scrutiny Panels are informal; therefore there is flexibility within the arrangements to revise Panel memberships at any point in the municipal year to reflect changes to Member capacity and other commitments. One revision is therefore requested:-

Children's Services Scrutiny Panel: to add Cllr Bob Francis to the membership of the Panel.

- 3.3 A complete membership of the Scrutiny Panels is attached for information and consideration as **Appendix 2** of this report.

4. DEDICATED SCRUTINY BUDGET

- 4.1 A small budgetary provision of £15,000 per annum is available to the Scrutiny Committee and the supporting Panels to deliver the agreed Annual Scrutiny Committee Work Programme.
- 4.2 As of 1 July 2013 the breakdown of the budget stood as follows:-

Description	£
Scrutiny Development	4746.16
Member Development	1986.89
Policy Review Development	0.00
Total Expenditure to Date	6,733.05
Budget	15,000
Remaining Budget	8,266.95

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee;
- (a) notes and considers the update of the Lead Scrutiny Members and receives a further verbal update at the meeting; and
 - (b) Endorses the revised membership of the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Scrutiny Committee Agenda and Papers – 13 June
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**CENTRE FOR PUBLIC SCRUTINY – 10TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
DECIDE, DESIGN, DELIVER: ACCOUNTABLE POLICIES, SERVICES AND
OUTCOMES**

11 JUNE 2013

Full programme including presentations can be found at:

http://www.cfps.org.uk/conf_programme

1. Opening Keynote: ‘Who Guards the Guardians?’: Dr Evan Harris, Associate Director, Hacked Off

- 1.1 Dr Harris’ speech centred around the press as a critical tool for holding bodies to account but questioned who holds the press to account. The press set the agenda for the broadcasted news and, unlike broadcasters they do not have to be impartial. Indeed they are often highly political. The press have significant influence and can work together as a monopoly (the response to Hacked Off and the Leveson enquiry was cited as an example).
- 1.2 He finished by stating that voluntary regulation of the press will not work. There have now been five failed attempts at this, spanning over many years. The key issue however that must be addressed is the relationship the press has with politicians and the police.

2. Plenary: The Power of Individual and Collective Voices: Robert Francis QC, Mid Staffordshire Trust Enquiry

- 2.1 Mr Francis talked through some of the key issues that allowed the failings at Mid Staffordshire to become so entrenched and lead to such poor quality of care. He cited many instances whereby concerns had been raised but never acted upon or progressed, including an instance whereby the local Health Scrutiny Committee had been contacted by a patient’s relative and a response was duly received stating that it was not the Scrutiny Committee’s responsibility to investigate individual cases. He therefore stated that listening to patients and staff and acting upon concerns was the key learning from the review.
- 2.2 The recommendations most pertinent to improving scrutiny and accountability were that:
- There should be effective complaints handling;
 - Detail of complaints should be shared with scrutiny, commissioning and regulatory bodies;
 - Action should be taken on concerns/complaints;
 - There should be no “gagging” of those raising safety concerns;
 - Professionals under duty to inform employers of incidents causing harm;
 - It should be a criminal offence to obstruct performance of duty;
 - The whole truth should be given to regulators (including scrutiny) and commissioners;
 - There should be candour with patients about harm;
 - There should be balanced and truthful public information and transparency about performance;
 - There is individual and collective responsibility to devise performance measures;
 - There is an improvement to core information systems;
 - There is patient user friendly access to records;

- There are comparable quality accounts; and
- There is effective real time performance information.

3. Tim Kelsey, National Director of Patients and Information, NHS England

3.1 Mr Kelsey had recently taken the post of National Director of Patients and Information at NHS England, having previously developed the 'Dr Foster' website which aimed to provide patients with mortality and other data for hospital trusts.

3.2 He asserted that currently the NHS is not accountable and that scrutiny is essential to patient safety. The public have a right to demand the right data and information to assist them in making an informed choice about their care. His mission in post therefore was to improve outcomes and quality of information and encourage 'active citizens' by:-

- Transforming the availability of 'safe data' for all health services including GPs and mental health trusts. More primary care data will be shared and this will be linked with hospital performance;
- Improve the quality of services by encouraging surgeons and others to publish their data and learn from each other. It is hoped that ten surgical specialities will be published; and
- Improving access to patient feedback in the form of a Trip Advisor style website which will enable people to share experiences (Friend and family test). The Careconnect pilot starts in London (with the NE in the second phase) and will be fully rolled out within two years.

4. Mark Burns-Williamson, Police and Crime Commissioner, West Yorkshire

4.1 Mr Burns-Williamson talked of his experiences in West Yorkshire and some of the challenges and opportunities there are for Police and Crime Commissioners to improve accountability in policing as follows:-

- PCCs have been elected to undertake scrutiny and ensure accountability of police force to the public, although questions remained as to the impact the massive reductions in funding to the police would have on the PCCs ability to achieve the necessary improvements in performance.
- The most important aspect of the role is community engagement and ensuring the public know who is and what he is in the role to do.
- The national debate continues about the powers of Police and Crime Panels, which largely ignore how effective they can be with right leadership and support. Effective scrutiny must be provided to ensure system works.
- The existing legislation needs to be used properly, and PCCs need to be more effective at sharing what work they are undertaking and ensuring performance can be measured by the public (possibly in the form of force league tables).

5. Stephen Lovelock, former Detective Chief Superintendent, Metropolitan Police

5.1 Mr Lovelock advocated the merits of the former police authorities over police and crime commissioners as follows:-

- Some PCCs are more qualified than others in taking the agenda forward and ensuring the police are held to account effectively.

- Those PCCs (one-third) that are independent candidates are much better placed in his view to undertake the role without allowing party politics to dominate the agenda.
- Whilst the original intention of the Government was to bring more accountability to local policing, this has failed due to the huge numbers of deputy PCCs and support staff subsequently recruited by PCCs not being democratically elected. There are 449 people employed by PCCs across the 43 force areas and huge variations in the levels of data available and the transparency of PCCs and their teams. Members of the public would find it enormously difficult in some instances to access the types of data they may be interested in understanding.
- There are questions as to how PCCs will hold their forces to account and measure success with. If this was police performance and crime statistics, these could be hugely misleading and not give a true picture of the actual performance of the force.

6. Workshop One: How PCPs can both scrutinise and support PCCs: early experiences

6.1 The main discussion points during the workshop were as follows:-

- Monitoring Officers within host authorities can have very different interpretations of the legislation leading to very different ways in which police and crime panels (PCPs) operate.
- Where PCPs are made up of former police authority members, there has been a greater degree of effective scrutiny due to the knowledge and experience of the members.
- Executive members sitting on PCPs can often have a very different understanding of what scrutiny is and how it should be undertaken.
- There was consensus that the scrutiny undertaken by PCPs is very different in the main to the way in which it is undertaken within a local authority setting, and focuses mainly on performance monitoring rather than topic based scrutiny. This is mainly due to; former police authority host organisations having a different understanding of scrutiny; the lack of resources allocated to it; and the capacity of the membership to meet more frequently.
- Relationships between PCCs and PCPs differ greatly from force to force, some productive, others adversarial.
- It was agreed that relationships between PCPs and local authority scrutiny committees were in the very early stages, or non-existent. There was a broad consensus however that PCPs could tap into the knowledge and expertise of scrutiny committees to assist it in undertaking more in-depth examinations into particular issues.

7. Workshop Six: Public Health, moving beyond transition to tackle health inequalities

7.1 The main discussion points during the workshop were as follows:-

- Scrutiny should utilise information and data from the HWB Strategy and JSNA to focus on issues where it can have the most impact.
- There is still a real issue in terms of understanding 'who does what' in the new health landscape which needs to be addressed. Common understanding will ensure scrutiny is effective and is not duplicating work being undertaken in other areas.
- Relationships between HWBBs and scrutiny are mixed, some have had very positive experiences of attending HWBBs and of members of HWBBs attending scrutiny, others have struggled to make the links.
- There was a feeling that Public Health teams have transitioned well in the main, although some differences in 'cultures' and ways of working that would need to be bottomed out.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SIX SCRUTINY PANELS

<p style="text-align: center;">City Services</p> <p>Scrutiny Lead Member: Cllr Stephen Bonallie</p> <p>Cllr Neville Padgett Cllr Michael Essl Cllr Stuart Porthouse Cllr Lynda Scanlan Cllr Steven Foster Cllr Amy Wilson Cllr Dianne Snowdon</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Health, Housing & Adult Services</p> <p>Scrutiny Lead Member: Cllr Christine Shattock</p> <p>Cllr Jill Fletcher Cllr Ronny Davison Cllr Alan Emerson Cllr Rosalind Copeland Cllr Darryl Dixon Cllr Lisa Smiles Cllr Barbara McLennan Cllr Dorothy Trueman Cllr Mary Turton Cllr Gemma Taylor</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Children's Services</p> <p>Scrutiny Lead Member: Cllr Debra Waller</p> <p>Cllr Florence Anderson Cllr Linda Williams Cllr Doris MacKnight Cllr Anthony Farr Cllr Philip Tye Cllr Robert Oliver Cllr Bob Francis</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Skills, Economy & Regeneration</p> <p>Scrutiny Lead Member: Cllr Tom Martin</p> <p>Cllr Bob Price Cllr Christine Marshall Cllr David Snowdon Cllr Denny Wilson Cllr Len Lauchlan Cllr Tom Wright Cllr Peter Wood</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Public Health, Wellness & Culture</p> <p>Scrutiny Lead Member: Cllr George Howe</p> <p>Cllr Debra Waller Cllr Louise Farthing Cllr Fiona Miller Cllr Julia Jackson Cllr Rebecca Atkinson Cllr David Errington Cllr Paul Maddison</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Responsive Services & Customer Care</p> <p>Scrutiny Lead Member: Cllr Iain Kay</p> <p>Cllr Bob Heron Cllr Betty Gibson Cllr Barry Curran Cllr Anne Lawson Cllr John Scott Cllr George Thompson Cllr John Wiper</p>

