

**LEAD SCRUTINY MEMBER UPDATE: FEBRUARY 2014**

**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 On 24 January, Cllr Tate chaired the Joint Member and Officer Regional Scrutiny Meeting at Gateshead Civic Centre. Members and officers heard from the Equalities Commission in regard to the human rights of those in receipt of home care services and the Care Quality Commission's revised approach to the inspection of adult social care providers and health services.
- 2.2 On 29 January, the Chair and Vice Chair met with Victoria French, Assistant Head of Community Services (Sport and Leisure), to discuss scrutiny's involvement in the design of the policy for Building Participation in Physical Activity and Sport.
- 2.3 On 12 February, the Chair, Vice Chair and Lead Member for Health Housing and Adult Services met with Neil Revely, Director of People Services and Karen Graham, Assistant Policy Lead for Health to discuss developments in regard to the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

***Children's Services (Cllr Debra Waller)***

- 2.4 In its final evidence gathering session the Children's Services Panel met a family who had undertaken the Lifestyle, Activity and Food (LAF) Programme. This was a good opportunity for the Panel to witness the positive impact the LAF programme can have on individuals and families. It also provided some fundamental evidence for the review. Members were impressed by the confidence exhibited by the young person and the responses provided to the questions the panel had asked. This clearly illustrated one of the other benefits of the LAF programme in developing a young person's confidence and self-esteem.
- 2.5 With evidence gathering completed the Panel have drawn together the main themes arising from their investigations and prepared a report which provides a clear summary of the review along with conclusions and the Panel's recommendations. It is fully acknowledged that the issue of

childhood obesity is a global situation and it would be foolish to think that the panel's investigation can turn this around. However, it does raise some important and issues and illustrates a lot of the positive work being done in and around Sunderland.

- 2.6 The next meeting of the Panel takes place in early February and will be to look at the Children and Young People's Plan as commissioned by the Scrutiny Committee. A full report will be provided to a future meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

### ***City Services (Cllr Stephen Bonallie)***

- 2.7 On 11 December, the Panel considered the draft policy review report into alcohol misuse and the development of licensing policy in the city.
- 2.8 A copy of the report is included on the agenda for this meeting. At the Panel meeting, Members emphasised that the council should continue to lobby the Government over the low unit price of alcohol in many supermarkets and off licenses. It also stressed the importance of raising awareness of the powers available to residents to object to licensing applications.
- 2.9 In December 2013, the Panel also began its review into the approach being taken to flood risk management in the city. The Panel was informed of the main causes flooding; including coastal, river, surface water and failure of infrastructure (eg sewer system). It was noted that historically flooding in the city has been a mix of coastal, surface water and sewer capacity issues.
- 2.10 The Panel was also informed about the respective roles of the key players; including the Council, Environment Agency and Northumbrian Water. During the next few months the Panel will be discussing flood risk planning with all of the above, as well contributing to the approach of the forthcoming Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

### ***Health, Housing and Adult Services (Cllr Christine Shattock)***

- 2.11 The HHAS Scrutiny Panel has concluded its evidence gathering by meeting representatives from Gentoo. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss a number of initiatives and support that Gentoo have put in place to help their tenants, which will include carers, as a result of the implications emerging from welfare reforms.
- 2.12 The Panel are now beginning to develop themes from the evidence gathered and will be preparing their report, conclusions and recommendations. The final report will be presented to a future meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

- 2.13 The Panel are to meet next on 20 February and will be receiving a report on the Housing Financial Assistance Policy Plan as commissioned to them by the Scrutiny Committee. A further update from the panel will be presented to the committee in due course.

***Public Health, Wellness and Culture (Cllr George Howe)***

- 2.14 The Panel held a meeting on 23 January and was provided with an overview of a programme of service reform related to integrating wellness services. The Scrutiny Committee commissioned this item to the Panel at its meeting on 7 November 2013.
- 2.15 The Panel received information about the list of services to be commissioned to a new integrated service model including programmes such as physical activity, stop smoking, weight management and alcohol. More work will be done with communities to understand barriers and opportunities for people to make healthy choices in their lives. Services can then be developed which are aligned to the needs of local communities thereby beginning an approach to co-design and eventually a co-production model.
- 2.16 New services are due to be delivered from October 2014. Prior to that stage, the key work in defining the shape of services and the specifications to underpin those will take place. The Panel decided it would like the opportunity to hear more about the design of the service before feeding back its views to the Scrutiny Committee and will therefore schedule a further meeting when more information is available about the proposed service model.

***Skills, Economy and Regeneration (Cllr Tom Martin)***

- 2.17 At its last meeting on 3 February, the Panel received a presentation from Jill Laverick, Corporate Affairs Manager on "Make it Sunderland" and its contribution to the diversification of the local economy.
- 2.18 MAKE it Sunderland is a new inward investment marketing campaign for the city that was launched in June 2012 and whose work has been informed by the Sunderland Economic Masterplan.
- 2.19 Make It Sunderland aims to raise the profile of Sunderland both nationally and internationally and help to create jobs and drive investment. Its work is focused on a number of key economic sectors; including automotive, manufacturing, software and offshore.
- 2.20 During the past year, Make It Sunderland has developed an extensive network and relationship base, exhibited at 15 national and international conferences and gained extensive press coverage for the city.

- 2.21 As part of its work programme, the Panel is also making arrangements for a tour of regeneration sites within the city such as St Mary's Way and the Vaux site. The visit will also include an opportunity to discuss the implications of the Business Improvement District. It is anticipated that the visit will take place during the first week in March.

### ***Responsive Services and Customer Care (Cllr Iain Kay)***

- 2.19 The Panel is carrying out a review of volunteering with a focus on unlocking capacity and met on 27 January to take evidence from the Sunderland Partnership on its strategic approach to working with VCS and from the Public Health team on community-based public health service delivery.
- 2.20 Through the Sunderland Partnership, a new Volunteering Strategy will be delivered. The strategic overview of the changing nature of volunteering in the city includes support to the voluntary sector for coordinating the expansion of food banks in the city and the 'one for the basket' initiative. This is one example of responsive targeting of voluntary activity when demand is created. There are plans to extend this way of working to the re-use of school uniforms. The Partnership is also linked into the University by supporting foreign students to engage in voluntary activity.
- 2.21 The Public Health Locality Team has been leading on the establishment of networks in local areas to bring voluntary sector organisations round the table on specific issues such as men's health and mental health. Students from the University link into local activities by volunteering for public health activities when this supports their studies. We heard that there is enough willingness to take part in volunteering but there is often a lack of leadership and direction to capitalise on the efforts.
- 2.22 In addition to the main policy review, the Panel took evidence on mechanisms for reporting incidents of hate crime. The ARCH system is currently being improved to be integrated with other sources of information which will allow for trends and patterns to be identified and will provide better support for the victim. Panel members will be seeing the new system in operation and will seek further information about the intended benefits of upgrading and improving the current system.

## **3. CHANGES TO PANEL MEMBERSHIPS**

- 3.1 Non-executive Members are 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.

3.3 There are no changes to report; therefore the complete membership of the Scrutiny Panels is attached for information and consideration as **Appendix 1** 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 3 February 2014 the breakdown of the budget stood as follows:-

<b>Description</b>	<b>£</b>
Scrutiny Development	2,749.29
Member Development	5,154.74
Policy Review Development	0.00
<b>Total Expenditure to Date</b>	<b>7,904.03</b>
<b>Budget</b>	<b>15,000.00</b>
<b>Remaining Budget</b>	<b>7,095.97</b>

#### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1 It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee notes and considers the update of the Lead Scrutiny Members.

#### **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Scrutiny Committee Agenda and Papers

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Contact Officer: Helen Lancaster, Scrutiny Coordinator  
Helen.lancaster@sunderland.gov.uk  
0191 561 1233

## APPENDIX 1

### SCRUTINY PANEL MEMBERSHIP

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>City Services</b></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;"><b>Health, Housing &amp; Adult Services</b></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;"><b>Children's Services</b></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;"><b>Skills, Economy &amp; Regeneration</b></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;"><b>Public Health, Wellness &amp; Culture</b></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;"><b>Responsive Services &amp; Customer Care</b></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>

