

HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21st April 2010

ANNUAL REPORT

Report of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: SP2: Healthy City.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES: CIO1: Delivering Customer Focused Services, CIO4: Improving Partnership Working to Deliver 'One City'.

1. Why has this report come to the Committee?

- 1.1 To approve the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee report as part of the overall scrutiny annual report 2009/10 that is to be presented to Council.

2. Background

- 2.1 In previous years each scrutiny committee has published an individual account of the work conducted by the committee in an annual report, and was presented to Council. The annual report reflected the committees work programme and included achievements, highlights and policy review work.
- 2.2 This year for the first time the annual report will be a single combined report of all seven scrutiny committees. The annual report will outline the development in the scrutiny function and provide snapshots of the outcomes achieved during the last 12 months.

3. Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee 2009/10

- 3.1 The proposed Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee report is attached at appendix 1 for member's consideration. The report provides a very brief snapshot of the some of the main work undertaken by the committee during 2009/10. It should be noted that the report is written from the perspective of the Chair of the Committee reflecting over the year.
- 3.2 Some of the main themes covered in the annual report revolve around the following issues:
 - Out of Hours Care
 - Mobility Scooters
 - Home Care Services
 - Policy Review: Tackling Health Inequalities in Sunderland.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The Committee has delivered another ambitious work programme in 2009/10, which is reflected in the annual report. The Scrutiny Committee has worked well with Council Directorates, stakeholders and partner organisations to deliver the work programme and the Scrutiny Committee has tackled a number of key issues throughout the year and looked to work with officers and stakeholders to provide solutions and improvements to services delivered across the city.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 That Members approve the Health and Wellbeing report 2009/10 for inclusion in the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2009/10.

6. Background Papers

- 6.1 2009/10 Agendas

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APPENDIX 1: ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Report: Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee 2009/10

Chair: Cllr Peter Walker Vice-Chair: Cllr Christine Shattock

Committee Members: Cllr Jill Fletcher, Cllr Anne Hall, Cllr Sylvia Old, Cllr Mary Smith, Cllr Dianne Snowden, Cllr Shirley Leadbitter, Cllr Paul Maddison, Cllr Anthony Morrissey and Cllr Peter Maddison.

It has been another busy year for the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, during which time we have delivered an ambitious work programme providing discussion and challenge on a range of topics and issues.

Our major policy work this year saw the committee undertake a review that looked into health inequalities across Sunderland, and this has been an extremely challenging and rewarding piece of work. In gathering evidence for the review we held a very successful Community Event Day at the Stadium of Light, where speakers from the Department of Health, Durham University, Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust and the local authority provided valuable information and stimulated much debate. The event attracted stakeholders, voluntary groups and the general public and gave us some useful evidence.

The committee also had the opportunity to hold discussions with a senior researcher working for the recently published Marmot Review, an independent study into reducing health inequalities in England. We also held an expert jury event where a number of witnesses were invited to give evidence to the committee which added to the evidence base of the review.

The review, although ambitious, has highlighted a number of key themes and produced recommendations that we trust can help to develop and ensure that future strategies and policies consider the implications on health outcomes within Sunderland.

Alongside our policy review we have looked at a number of other issues including the legislation surrounding mobility scooters and powered wheelchairs. What we found was very little legislation governing such vehicles and agreed to write to the Department of Transport on this issue. As a result we have been invited to contribute to a wider consultation around this issue and have provided a detailed response. The committee hopes that ultimately greater legislation will lead to improved safety for scooter users, pedestrians and other road users.

The committee has continued to be involved in a piece of work that began in 2008/09 around the quality and provision of home care services. I am pleased to report that work is continuing to introduce an electronic monitoring system for home care providers along with an annual survey for home care staff,

service users and managers. These measures, recommended by the committee, will help to drive up the quality of home care provision in Sunderland.

One of the strengths of the scrutiny process is that we can look into issues or concerns around service provision that are raised by elected members. This year we were asked to consider the out of hours service provision in Sunderland, a broad range of statutory services provided to meet the emergency needs of individuals. Following the highlighting of these concerns and subsequent reports from the HHAS Directorate a working group has been established with key stakeholders, including a representative of the committee, to review current arrangements and look at service improvements. The Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee will be kept fully informed of the progress of the working group.

This provides a snapshot of some of the work undertaken by the committee during the year, and I feel that along with the hard work of my colleagues on the committee we have had another successful year. I look forward to 2010/11 being another rewarding year for the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

Cllr Peter Walker
Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee