

**LEAD SCRUTINY MEMBER UPDATE: APRIL 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 13 March the Scrutiny Committee was invited by Philip Foster, Chief Operating Officer of Sunderland Care and Support to visit the company headquarters at Leechmere. We were provided with a tour of the premises and an update on the company since its formation in 2013. In the new municipal year the Scrutiny Committee will have the opportunity to meet with service users, staff and carers to get their experiences of Sunderland Care and Support.
- 2.2 On 21 March Cllr Tate chaired the North East Regional Scrutiny Member/Officer Network for the last time. At the meeting scrutiny's role in holding schools to account was discussed and an update was given regarding the work being done at a regional level to reduce reoffending. The network meetings are extremely informative and all scrutiny members are encouraged to attend when time allows.
- 2.3 Immediately following this meeting Cllr Norma Wright, Cllr Christine Shattock and Cllr Julia Jackson attended the CfPS Health Development Session. An outline of this event is provided at **Appendix 1**. A verbal update will be given at the meeting but the general view was that the session raised more questions than there were answers to.
- 2.4 Also on 21 March, Cllr Tate attended the Health and Wellbeing Board as Chair of Scrutiny to provide an update on the progress of this year's policy reviews, as well as seeking suggestions from the Board as to potential scrutiny topics the Scrutiny Function may wish to consider in the new municipal year.
- 2.5 On 31 March, Cllrs Wright and Martin attended the CfPS Parliamentary Seminar which included the option to observe a Select Committee. A verbal report will be given at the meeting.
- 2.6 On 14 April Cllr Tate attended the Northumberland, Tyne and Wear (NTW) NHS Foundation Trust's stakeholder meeting for the draft Quality Account. Following this meeting the Scrutiny Function will be asked to provide feedback. The following day Cllr Tate and Wright also met with the Chair

and Deputy Chief Executive of NTW to discuss shared priorities for the coming year.

- 2.7 Finally, in this my last meeting as Chair of the Scrutiny Committee and also as a Councillor, I would like to take this opportunity to thank scrutiny colleagues for their support over the years.

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

- 2.8 The Children's Services Scrutiny Panel has agreed the text for inclusion in the Scrutiny Annual Report as a fair reflection of the work undertaken by the panel during 2013/14.
- 2.9 The Child Obesity policy review will also be submitted to Cabinet during the month of April and as Lead Scrutiny Member I look forward to presenting the findings of the panel's deliberations to Cabinet. The review has been extremely rewarding and I feel sure that members of the panel have enjoyed gathering evidence from a variety of organisations and individuals from across Sunderland.
- 2.10 The next meeting of the panel take place on 22 April and will be look at a brief overview of the Council's strategies and procedures around sexual exploitation and this may well come under consideration for a fuller investigation in the next year.

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

- 2.11 The Panel's draft policy review report into alcohol misuse and licensing was approved by the Scrutiny Committee on 13 February and will be considered by the Cabinet on 16 April 2014. Councillor Bonallie in his role as lead member will attend the meeting.
- 2.12 On 6 March, the Panel met with representatives from Northumbrian Water and the Environment Agency in order to discuss their role in flood management and the work going on in the city to deal with flood risk. The meeting highlighted the importance of joint working between partners in order to make the most of the available skills and resources. The Panel also heard about the arrangements made by the Council in the event of an emergency flooding event.
- 2.13 On 3 April, the Panel held its final meeting of the year and considered the draft final report into flood risk management. The Panel agreed the contents and recommendations contained in the report which is included on this meeting's agenda.

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

- 2.14 The HHAS Scrutiny Panel review into carers is presented to the Scrutiny Committee elsewhere on this agenda. However, I would like to use this update to thank all my colleagues on the HHAS Scrutiny Panel who

contributed to the review and made my task as Lead Scrutiny Member that bit easier.

- 2.15 The Carers Review will then be presented to Cabinet later in the year and it will be my pleasure to represent the Scrutiny Committee and present the findings of this review to Cabinet colleagues.

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

- 2.16 The Panel has concluded its evidence gathering and is proposing an approach to public and patient engagement which includes the role of Health and Wellbeing Board and, through the Board, a network of organisations and partnerships all contributing to the delivery of public and patient engagement.
- 2.17 Our review considered the opportunities for going forward, bearing in mind the constraints around resources for engagement, how best to build on the existing strengths, and how to eradicate duplication.
- 2.18 It was apparent during the review that, while there are many and varied ways that patients and the public can feed views in, the approaches can be very complex for the individuals. In the same way that people often don't know which service to use, they also may not know which way to feed in a complaint.
- 2.19 Our conclusions are about how to better coordinate what is already there and to ensure that patients and the public can have their voice heard, as well as how to measure effectiveness and success.
- 2.20 During the year, the Panel was also commissioned to review a programme of service reform for integrating wellness services. The Panel considered the proposals at a meeting in January and decided to revisit the issue later following consultation with the public, service users and a range of stakeholders. The Panel intends to revisit the proposals when more detail is known about the final specification.

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

- 2.21 On 14 March, the Panel undertook a tour of regeneration sites within the city including the Vaux site, St Mary's Way, Crowtree and the Minster area. Members referred to the considerable progress that was being made on city centre regeneration. Arrangements have also been made for members of the Panel to be invited to the official launch of the BID on 8 April 2014.
- 2.22 On 18 March, the Panel visited and met with representatives from Nissan in order to discuss the contribution they can make to developing and diversifying the local economy. Members noted the importance of Nissan

to the health of the local economy and the recent expansion of the plant in terms of new vehicle models and employment.

- 2.23 On 2 April, the Panel held its final meeting of the municipal year in order to discuss its draft final report into the diversification of the local economy. The comments of the Panel were incorporated into the report which is included on the agenda for this meeting.

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

- 2.24 The Panel has concluded its review of volunteering with a focus on increasing capacity.
- 2.25 We were impressed by the range of volunteering activity taking place in the city. For example the Student's Union at the University actively coordinates a pool of student volunteers and works hard to promote new opportunities.
- 2.26 The emphasis for the Panel was on the importance of the 'organisation' of volunteers. The overwhelming message we received was that volunteering is not a free resource. Increasing the numbers of volunteers participating in the council's priority activities will be a focus of a future relationship which will be described in a new Volunteering Strategy. The key challenge will be about how transformative the new approach will be in creating a new relationship to create capacity within communities. We very much welcome the council's recognition that further work in this area is required.
- 2.27 The Panel also reviewed new developments on how incidents of hate crime are reported. Members toured the new contact centre and met with the staff receiving and processing the reports and we saw for ourselves the online system which came into operation on 1<sup>st</sup> April.
- 2.28 I would like to thank all of our witnesses for their thoughtful contributions and the time they took to be involved in our discussions. I would also like to thank Panel Members for their support, contributions, and most of all for their active participation in our evidence gathering sessions.

### **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 as at the end of the municipal year 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 8 April 2014 the breakdown of the budget stood as follows:-

<b>Description</b>	<b>£</b>
Scrutiny Development	5,154.74
Member Development	3,351.11
Policy Review Development	0.00
<b>Total Expenditure to Date</b>	<b>8,505.85</b>
<b>Budget</b>	<b>15,000.00</b>
<b>Remaining Budget</b>	<b>6494.15</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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## **APPENDIX 1**

A Regional Health Accountability Forum was held on 21 March 2014, hosted by the CFPS.

CfPS provided an update on Health Scrutiny. Regulations on new health scrutiny arrangements were published in February 2013 but no guidance has been published yet. The guidance is expected to clarify issues around how health scrutiny is delegated within council's and the related issue of how referral can be made to the Secretary of State.

Challenges for the NHS currently include efficiency, treating causes not effects, public and patient engagement and transparency. Area Teams are established in all areas and each one has a Quality Surveillance Group looking for early warning signals. The NHS Call to Action is ongoing and will eventually translate into service changes.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) provided information on Future Engagement and Information Sharing with scrutiny and Healthwatch. CQC have new standards and new inspection teams will be in place from April. Reports and briefings will be available on the CQC website for scrutiny to keep abreast of developments. Suggestions for scrutiny to consider when prioritising issues to review are: Complaints, Death Rates, National Inpatient survey, the Friends and Family test, Incidents, and Infection Control.

The Centre Director of NE Public Health England talked about the challenges and opportunities for Public Health and how scrutiny can influence this agenda. Scrutiny should look at what the Health and Wellbeing Board are discussing and how they are using Public Health resources. Detailed information was provided on health inequalities and public health issues across the 12 north east local authority areas. The information is also available to council's at ward level from Public Health teams. Infection control is an issue that health scrutiny members need to be mindful of when prioritising workloads and a Case Study was provided on the Measles outbreak during 2012-13 including how Public Health responded to this.

## APPENDIX 2

### SCRUTINY PANEL MEMBERSHIP

<p><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><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 Barbara McLennan Cllr Dorothy Trueman Cllr Mary Turton Cllr Gemma Taylor</p>
<p><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><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><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><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>

