

LEAD SCRUTINY MEMBER UPDATE: DECEMBER 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 On 4 November, the Chair attended the Regional Health Scrutiny Committee in Gateshead. The Committee discussed the Children's Paediatric Review, the CCG Call to Action and received updates regarding NHS 111 and Ambulance Service A and E Review.
- 2.2 On 7 November the Chair participated in a Frontline Member Workshop held as part of the Corporate Peer Challenge for the council. The Chair was one of a number of elected members who met with the Peer Challenge Team, made up of elected members and senior officers. The Workshop gave members the opportunity to give their views on the council's journey to becoming a Community Leadership Council.
- 2.3 The Chair also attended an event which looked at Sunderland's approach to improving health. This focused on three priority areas; integrated wellness, the Core Strategy Health Impact Assessment and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Children's Services (Cllr Debra Waller)

- 2.4 Members have visited the Stay and Bake Programme at the Tansy Centre in South Hylton which helps families to cook on a budget and develop skills in the kitchen. Members found it interesting to learn how through the course relationships were developed, skills enhanced and confidence increased. The course highlighted how to get the very best from a limited budget and how to use groceries to maximum advantage.
- 2.5 The Children's Services Scrutiny Panel also took part in Children's Takeover Day and welcomed pupils from Thornhill School into Committee Room 1. The Panel and pupils had a lively discussion around food, eating habits and healthy lifestyles. Members and young people interacted well to make this a very informative meeting.
- 2.6 Professor Mike Kelly from the NICE Organisation will be at the Panel's December meeting to discuss some of the ways in which local authorities

can influence child obesity. Professor Kelly is Director of the Centre of Public Health at NICE as well as a public health practitioner, researcher and academic.

City Services (Cllr Stephen Bonallie)

- 2.7 On 11 November 2013, the Panel met to consider the current position with regard to the introduction of 20mph zones in the city.
- 2.8 The Panel had previously considered an update on the development of 20mph zones in Sunderland and the current position with regard to their implementation. At that meeting, the Panel suggested that it was an appropriate time to revisit the accident figures and criteria used to draw up the priority list of schemes.
- 2.9 As a result of reviewing the accidents statistics, it was suggested that the original priority list be updated and amended. It was also proposed to review the work and timescales involved in implementing the 20mph Zones. This was in part a response to recent Department of Transport (DfT) guidance *Setting Local Speed Limits* which suggested that the use of signs & lines should be looked at rather than the introduction of physical features such as round humps. As a result, it was therefore considered possible to reduce the delivery timescale to an estimated 4 years.
- 2.10 In addition to the delivery of this programme, it was also recommended that provision existed to install 20 mph zones / limits at sites of public concern, such as outside of schools, shops and play parks. These Public Concern Site schemes would be limited to a construction cost of £8,000 and funded through the Mass Action element of the Local Transport Plan (LTP).
- 2.11 Following the meeting of the Panel, a report will be submitted to a future Cabinet meeting detailing the proposed changes to the 20 mph zone / limit methodology and scheme priority. A report will also be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

Health, Housing and Adult Services (Cllr Christine Shattock)

- 2.12 The Panel holds a major evidence gathering day on 6 December where a number of key witnesses will provide evidence to the panel around supporting carers.
- 2.13 Members are interested to understand from these witnesses how identification and recognition of carers can be enhanced and what role frontline councillors can play, as community advocates, in this very important dimension to the review.
- 2.14 One of the witnesses will be a young carer who has kindly agreed to attend and discuss their own personal experiences, including some of the barriers, pressures and challenges encountered. The day should prove to

be extremely informative and provide a number of key issues that will support the review work of the panel.

Public Health, Wellness and Culture (Cllr George Howe)

- 2.15 The Panel is looking into patient and public engagement (PPE) in the health service. At a meeting on 12 November the Panel took evidence from South Tyneside Foundation Trust which provides community health services in Sunderland including in patients' homes, care homes, hospice and day care centres.
- 2.16 The Trust is aiming to develop a culture of patient engagement through the involvement of all staff across all professional disciplines. They have produced a strategy which focuses very much on the involvement of everyone in the organisation. A key measure of success of the strategy is for all staff to see it as their business to achieve good patient experience.
- 2.17 So far 1,400 staff have been surveyed as part of this cultural assessment. The focus has been on compassion in care and how patients and their families are treated day-to-day. All staff have been subject to the same standard assessments and are trained in the same way to eliminate error.
- 2.18 The Trust is taking part in a national initiative 'Transparency in Care' which includes publishing patient stories monthly. In the last year they have carried out 906 individual patient qualitative stories. Through this approach they report that cases of pressure ulcers have been reduced by approximately 50%.
- 2.19 We will be continuing to take evidence on each provider's patient engagement processes.

Skills, Economy and Regeneration (Cllr Tom Martin)

- 2.20 On 18 November, the Panel met with David Dunn, Chief Executive Officer at Sunderland Software City as part of its review into the diversification of the local economy.
- 2.21 Mr Dunn provided a presentation covering the following themes:-
- a general overview of the software sector in Sunderland
 - the Growth potential of software firms in the city
 - the obstacles to growth
 - the importance of developing the national reputation of Sunderland
- 2.22 During the discussion, reference was made to the importance of the software sector both as a growing area of the local economy and its role in underpinning and supporting the development of other sectors such as manufacturing, automotive and offshore.

- 2.23 Whilst at the present time the software sector was relatively small there existed considerable potential for future growth, providing generally well paid employment opportunities. A major challenge for the sector was to develop and then retain businesses in the city, with firms attracted by the city's good transport links and enthusiastic work force. There was also a need to continue to develop the skills of our local workforce and ensure that young people were made aware of the opportunities available.
- 2.24 Important work was going on to raise the profile of the city nationally and internationally and make potential investors aware of the range of support and facilities on offer. Work was also being directed at developing the links between firms within the software sector.

Responsive Services and Customer Care (Cllr Iain Kay)

- 2.25 The Panel is carrying out a review of volunteering with a focus on unlocking capacity. The Panel met on 13 November and took evidence on young people's involvement in volunteering; focusing on how the university provides opportunities for students. Members also took evidence on how the council supports advice services in the city.
- 2.26 The Panel was pleasantly surprised at the motivation of students to spend time volunteering in all sorts of ways. It heard that international students in particular are very keen to volunteer as they see as part of learning about the local area. A small and active team works to match students to volunteering opportunities but they need more support to raise the profile of their pool of volunteers and do what they can to work with organisations in the city. The Panel discussed areas for development including exploring links with the existing youth groups and developing links with schools.
- 2.27 The Panel also discussed advice services because we know that welfare reforms have placed additional burdens on voluntary sector advice services.
- 2.28 Big Lottery funding has supported a new model which aims to improve and sustain accessible advice services for vulnerable people in Sunderland through more collaboration and integration amongst advice providers and the VCS. The plan is to develop a Volunteer Academy to support city-wide recruitment and training of volunteers to provide sustainable advice services. Agencies funded by the council will be expected to implement a self-help model, and to provide appropriate self-help materials and self-service points for customers.
- 2.29 The Panel discussed the legacy and sustainability of this short-term funded project and whether transferring a significant level of current demand to other channels will free up capacity to provide specialist advice.

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.
- 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 28 October 2013 the breakdown of the budget stood as follows:-

Description	£
Scrutiny Development	5,154.74
Member Development	2,350.09
Policy Review Development	0.00
Total Expenditure to Date	7,504.83
Budget	15,000
Remaining Budget	7,495.17

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

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>

