

LEAD SCRUTINY MEMBER UPDATE: DECEMBER 2015

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. LEAD SCRUTINY MEMBER UPDATE

Scrutiny Chair and Vice Chair (Cllrs Norma Wright and Dianne Snowdon)

- 2.1 The review of scrutiny arrangements has been concluded and its findings have been shared with the various political groups. A paper elsewhere on this agenda provides further detail and clarity on progress in implementing the recommendations arising from the review.
- 2.2 The Safeguarding Working Group will also have met again 26st November 2015 and will focus on the Safeguarding Improvement and Learning Plan.

Combined Authority Scrutiny Committee

- 2.3 The NECA Scrutiny Committee is due to meet on 1st December in North Tyneside. The main items of business are: Devolution, performance report from Nexus and the draft NECA Budget 2016/17.

Children's Services (Cllr Darryl Dixon)

- 2.4 At a meeting held on 11th November, evidence was taken from NTW Children and Young Peoples Service (CYPS) which is within Tier 3.
- 2.5 The CYPS has set about to develop their model of care to improve access and waiting times to meet the increasing demands in referrals since taking over service provision 3 years ago. There are now a greater number of acute mental health presentations which reflects the national position. This inevitably creates a huge stretch on specialist CYPS. The service has set a target that by April 2016 the maximum wait from referral to treatment will be 9 weeks.

City Services (Cllr Lynda Scanlan)

- 2.6 At its last meeting on 17 November 2015, the Panel looked at the approach being taken to environmental enforcement and the extent to which the enforcement powers available to the Council across a range of areas are being used. Mark Speed (Head of Place Management), Ian Richardson (Assistant Head of Streetscene) and Nicky Rowland (East Area Response Manager) were in attendance.
- 2.7 The Panel discussed the balance that should be struck between the use of education and persuasion as against enforcement measures such as fixed penalty notices. Members also considered the resource implications of taking a more robust approach to enforcement. The Panel suggested the Council's current policy in relation to

environmental enforcement should be subject to review in consultation with members. It was also suggested that this issue be revisited by scrutiny at a later date.

- 2.8 At its next meeting and as part of its review into environmental enforcement, the Panel will consider the approach being taken with regards to tethered horses in the city.

Health, Housing and Adult Services (Cllr Jill Fletcher)

- 2.9 The Health, Housing and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel conducted a number of visits to a variety of Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO's) across the city. The Panel held an initial meeting with officers, on 24th November, to provide an overview of the HMO situation within the city. Members of the Panel then visited the Norfolk Hotel (hostel accommodation), Roker Avenue (a traditional style HMO) and Dundas Street (student accommodation), which illustrated the typical types of HMO that can be found in Sunderland.

- 2.10 The next meeting of the HHAS Scrutiny Panel, in December, will see the panel visit Portland Academy to continue its work around the transition from child to adult social services. Portland Academy provides education for students with a wide range of needs. The majority of students have severe, profound and multiple learning difficulties, with some pupils also having complex medical conditions. Members will look to understand how the school prepares their students for the transition into adulthood and adult social care.

Public Health, Wellness and Culture (Cllr George Howe)

- 2.11 The Public Health, Wellness and Culture Scrutiny Panel held a panel meeting on the 16th November 2015, in relation to the secondary short review the panel are undertaking around Sexual Health Services in Sunderland. David Messenger from NECA (North East Council on Addictions) attended the panel in order to give patient feedback, which included direct feed-in from students at Sunderland University. The panel questioned Mr Messenger on areas around feedback on the 'environment' of services and how this could be improved. The need for publicity for services was highlighted and community outreach services were discussed, as well as the perceived stigma of attending such a clinic. A further meeting is planned for Tuesday 8th December where findings of this short review will be discussed by the panel.

Skills, Economy and Regeneration (Cllr David Snowdon)

- 2.12 The Skills, Economy & Regeneration Panel met on 19 November with the main purpose to research and investigate in more detail the 2 chosen cities. Andrew Perkin produced a matrix which highlighted the initiatives that encourage regeneration and where the focus of investment is in Coventry & Hull along with Sunderland's current and planned projects.
- 2.13 The Panel was asked to consider what questions to pose to the Coventry representative who will be invited to attend a Panel in the new year, ensuring the panel maximises the learning that from this exercise. In relation to Hull it was apparent that much of their regeneration initiatives have been linked to their bid for the City of Culture. The Panel were particularly interested in learning more about their Bondholder Scheme which was a network of over 280 businesses who work together to raise the profile of Hull.

Responsive Services and Customer Care (Cllr Ronny Davison)

- 2.14 As part of its review into customer services, the Panel undertook a tour of the Customer Services office based in the Civic Centre in order to obtain a first-hand view of its operation. Members were also provided with the opportunity to monitor some of the calls taken and the responses given.
- 2.15 On 19 November, the Panel also heard from Margaret Douglas (Complaints and Feedback Team Manager) and Marie Johnston (Complaints Manager Adult Services) who explained the work of the Complaints Team and in particular focusing on the way in which feedback from complaints can be used by the Council to improve service delivery.
- 2.16 At its next meeting the Panel is scheduled to receive an update on the progress being made in implementing of the new powers contained in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act.

3. CURRENT 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 A complete membership of the Scrutiny Panels is attached for information at **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 20th November 2015 the breakdown of the budget stood as follows:-

Description	£
Scrutiny Development	£4,658
Member Development	£898
Policy Review Development	£0.00
Total Expenditure to Date	£5,556
Budget	£15,000
Remaining Budget	£9,444

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee;

- (a) notes and considers the update of the Lead Scrutiny Members and receives, where appropriate, a further verbal update at the meeting;
- (b) notes the current expenditure and remaining scrutiny budget for 2015/16, and

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Scrutiny Committee Agenda and Papers – 5 November
-

Contact Officer: Nigel Cummings, Scrutiny Officer
Nigel.Cumminigs@sunderland.gov.uk
0191 561 1006

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SIX SCRUTINY PANELS

<p style="text-align: center;">City Services</p> <p>Lead Scrutiny Member: Cllr Lynda Scanlan</p> <p>Cllr James Blackburn Cllr Michael Essl Cllr Stuart Porthouse Cllr Steven Foster Cllr Margaret Beck Cllr Bernie Scaplehorn Cllr Peter Wood</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Health, Housing & Adult Services</p> <p>Lead Scrutiny Member: Cllr Jill Fletcher</p> <p>Cllr Alan Emerson Cllr Rosalind Copeland Cllr Michael Dixon Cllr Shirley Leadbitter Cllr Barbara McLennan Cllr Dorothy Trueman Cllr Paul Middleton Cllr Juliana Heron Cllr Doris Turner</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Children's Services</p> <p>Lead Scrutiny Member: Cllr Darryl Dixon</p> <p>Cllr Debra Waller Cllr Doris MacKnight Cllr Anthony Farr Cllr Philip Tye Cllr Jacqui Gallagher Cllr Bob Francis Cllr Karen Waters Cllr Victoria O'Neil</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Skills, Economy & Regeneration</p> <p>Lead Scrutiny Member: Cllr David Snowdon</p> <p>Cllr Bob Price Cllr Michael Dixon Cllr Christine Marshall Cllr Mary Turton Cllr Billy Turton Cllr Len Lauchlan Cllr Colin English Cllr Miles Elliot</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Public Health, Wellness & Culture</p> <p>Lead Scrutiny Member: Cllr George Howe</p> <p>Cllr Louise Farthing Cllr Fiona Miller Cllr Julia Jackson Cllr Rebecca Atkinson Cllr Richard Bell Cllr John Cummings Cllr Shirley Leadbitter Cllr Geoff Walker</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Responsive Services & Customer Care</p> <p>Lead Scrutiny Member: Cllr Ronny Davison</p> <p>Cllr Betty Gibson Cllr Barry Curran Cllr Iain Kay Cllr Gillian Galbraith Cllr Margaret Forbes Cllr Ian Galbraith Cllr Tony Taylor</p>