

HEALTH & WELL-BEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9th JUNE 2010

ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME AND POLICY REVIEW 2010-11

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 For Members to determine the Annual Work Programme for the Scrutiny Committee during 2010-11, including the main theme for a detailed policy review.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Committee is responsible for setting its own work programme within the following scope:

General Scope: To consider issues relating to health and adult social care services

Remit: Social Care (Adults); Welfare Rights; Relationships and scrutiny of health services; Healthy life and lifestyle choices for adults and children; Public Health; Food Law Enforcement; Citizenship (Adults); and External inspections (Adult Services)

- 2.2 The Council's Scrutiny Committees are aligned to the relevant priorities of the Sustainable Community Strategy – the Sunderland Strategy. This allows each Scrutiny Committee to focus on the priority areas and targets in the Sunderland Strategy and Local Area Agreement (LAA) and for the work of all Scrutiny Committees to consistently address those areas of performance requiring detailed examination.
- 2.3 This approach allows a clear themed focus on the outcomes for the people of Sunderland, and allows for cross-cutting examination of issues, with potential for linking areas of knowledge and expertise that would not ordinarily be brought together, so increasing the likelihood of the committees identifying novel approaches and solutions to the issues they consider.
- 2.4 The most relevant Sunderland Strategy priority for this committee is:

Healthy City: To create a city where everyone can be supported to make healthy life and lifestyle choices - a city that provides excellent health and social care services for all who need them. Everyone in Sunderland will have the opportunity to live long, healthy, happy and independent lives.

2.5 All Scrutiny Committees will take a role in the scrutiny of partnership and area issues and have a role in engaging with partners, external scrutiny, community and public engagement, and engaging with media and area scrutiny.

3. Policy Review

3.1 Policy review is the process of maintaining an overview of council policies and will usually examine whether the Council and its partners intended policy outcomes have been achieved. The process will also explore issues such as the service user's perspective.

3.2 Policy reviews are project planned with appropriate methodology applied to investigate the chosen topic. This may include meetings, site visits, surveys, public meetings or analysis of comparative practice in other local authorities.

3.3 Previous reviews carried out by this Scrutiny Committee have included Dementia Care in Sunderland, Quality Commissioning of Vulnerable Adults, Diabetes, Employment of Adults with a Physical Disability, Community Mental Health, Keeping Older People out of Hospital, and Standards of Home Care Services. All previous reviews are available at <http://cityweb/directorates/chief-executive/scrutiny/scrutinyhome.shtm>

3.4 Following the selection of a topic for review, the Committee will receive a report setting out a possible approach to the review. This will include the terms of reference, definitions, links to corporate goals, partnerships, the national and local context, and proposals for gathering evidence.

3.5 The shortlist of topics for 2010-11 is listed below. The Committee is recommended to select one topic from this shortlist for an in depth review. The list includes all topics suggested by Members from the discussions held at the Scrutiny Conference on 20th May 2010.

Suggested Topics for Policy Review/Task and Finish Group		
	Brief Description	Objective
1.	Transforming Community Services in Sunderland	To investigate the local approach to Transforming Community Services which is focussed on the commissioner/provider split within the PCT and identify opportunities to work closer across health and social care.
2.	Model of Care for Mental Health – one year on	To review the work that has been undertaken across SOTW to develop a model of care for mental health and whether Sunderland is ready to provide better mental health services for people.
3.	District Nursing Services	To review the current District Nursing Services across Sunderland from a customer and stakeholder perspective.

4.	Alcohol related hospital admissions	To review hospital treatment for alcohol-related conditions and how public services work together to address the wide-reaching and significant effects of excessive alcohol consumption.
5.	Smoking Cessation	To review the health inequalities and increase the life expectancy of poorest and most vulnerable people in Sunderland by promoting actions to cut the number of smokers and reduce the harm that smoking causes them and others.
6.	Access to Home Care Services	To review how older people are navigating their way through the current system to access the home care they need with a growing older population.
7.	Access to GP Services	To review current access to GP services in terms of geographical distribution, travel, disability, quality of premises, making appointments, patient experience and choice, and to make recommendations on further opportunities for improving services.
8.	Quality Commissioning for Vulnerable Adults	To review the delivery of better services more closely matched to local need through improved commissioning with a clear focus on delivering improved health outcomes. The review will aim to seek measurable outcomes to improve the health of vulnerable adults.
9.	Malnutrition in hospitals	To review approaches to screening for and treating malnutrition in hospitals, particularly for older patients. Malnutrition is a major problem in hospitals particularly amongst older people.
10.	Sexual Health in Young Adults	To review what the Council and its partners currently do to promote and improve the sexual health of young adults within the city, including action to reduce the levels of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and conceptions, with a particular focus on the issue of prevention and the promotion of good sexual health.
11.	Tele-care Operations	To review the telecare operations service.
12.	Midwifery Workforce	To provide the opportunity to review the key challenges facing midwifery, particularly as it has been identified that the midwifery workforce is generally 'older' than the nursing workforce and how to offset the high number of potential retirements that are due to occur in the next 10 years.

4. Work Programme

- 4.1 A draft work programme for 2010-11 with items already scheduled is attached as Appendix A.

4.2 The work programme can be amended during the year and any Member of the Committee can add an item of business to an agenda (See Protocol 1 Overview & Scrutiny Handbook).

5. Conclusion & Recommendation

5.1 The Committee is asked to :

- (a) Consider the draft Annual Work Programme for 2010-11 and indicate any additions or amendments
- (b) Consider the list of suggestions for policy review and determine one topic for review.

5.2 Subject to any amendment at this meeting, the work programme will be submitted to the Management Scrutiny Committee in its coordinating role.

6. Background Papers

None

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