

LEAD SCRUTINY MEMBER UPDATE: OCTOBER 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 current scrutiny arrangements has been conducted with the involvement and expertise of the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS). The Executive Director for CfPS has now provided an independent report of scrutiny arrangements in Sunderland and these findings have been shared with Lead Scrutiny Members at a recent briefing session. The independent report will assist the future development and progression of the scrutiny function.
- 2.2 The Safeguarding Working Group is set to meet again on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 and will meet with a number of safeguarding partners with the focus on issues around child sexual exploitation.

Combined Authority Scrutiny Committee

- 2.3 The Scrutiny Committee met on 8<sup>th</sup> September in Gateshead. The main items of business were: evidence from Nexus for the policy review of transport related barriers to employment and an overview of apprenticeship options across the combined authority area. The next meeting will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> October in Newcastle and will continue to take evidence on the transport review.

***Children's Services (Cllr Darryl Dixon)***

- 2.4 At the last Scrutiny Committee it was agreed that the Panel would carry out further investigation of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), particularly in relation to concerns raised through the Scrutiny Committee on access to services and waiting times. The Panel will hold its first evidence session on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

***City Services (Cllr Lynda Scanlan)***

- 2.5 At its last meeting, the Panel looked at the way in which street consents can support a vibrant city. Richard Reading, Trading Standards and Licensing Manager outlined the background to the processes and procedures used for obtaining a licence. Ken Dunbar, Chief Executive of Sunderland BID and Inspector Jamie Southwell were also in attendance to provide their views.
- 2.6 Richard Reading noted that the current policy in relation to trading consents had not been updated for many years and that there was frustration that more could be done to

contribute to the vibrancy of the city centre. Ken Dunbar reinforced the importance of encouraging the emergence of a café culture in the city while ensuring the necessary quality and standards. It was felt that there was a danger that the Council's existing policy could be discouraging demand. This could become more of an issue as the Council looks to expand the number of events and activities taking place in the city centre.

- 2.7 As a result of the discussion, the Panel considered that it was important to review the Council's policy in order to better meet the demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It also was considered important that partners, including the BID and the police, work closely together in order to ensure that the resulting process is speedy, clear and flexible.
- 2.8 The Panel is scheduled to look at the general issue of enforcement and the extent to which the enforcement powers available to the Council across a range of areas are being used.

***Health, Housing and Adult Services (Cllr Jill Fletcher)***

- 2.9 The HHAS Scrutiny Panel met on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2015 and discussed the transition of looked after children from care into independent living. The head of service for looked after children was in attendance to provide key evidence to panel members. Access to accommodation and employment opportunities are crucial for the successful transition into adulthood of young people leaving care. As well as good mental health, in particular, which is strongly associated with employment. The panel were interested in how the transition of looked after children into independence was monitored and the interaction between child and adult social care services through this transition phase.
- 2.10 The panel's next meeting will take place on 20<sup>th</sup> October and will involve officers from the council's transition service who will outline the process for the transition of young people from child to adult social care services.

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

- 2.11 The Public Health, Wellness and Culture Scrutiny Panel held a meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2015, where 4 representatives from Sunderland Royal Hospital Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department attended in relation to the Sexual Health (Genito Urinary Medicine clinic) element, which the panel had undertaken as their secondary short review. The panel also accepted an invite to visit the GUM clinic in place of the next panel meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2015. The co-location of the services is of interest to the panel and how this affects residents and service users, and this will be explored further at the visit in October. The panel agreed the proposed scoping document for this short topic.
- 2.12 A brief update was also provided in relation to the current position for residents suffering from eating disorders, following a query raised by Cllr F. Miller at the July panel meeting. Also Following Cllr G. Walker's request for an updated position on the Culture of Wellness, a briefing report was presented on promoting a culture of wellness through employers.

### ***Skills, Economy and Regeneration (Cllr David Snowdon)***

- 2.13 The Skills, Economy & Regeneration Panel met on 17 September to agree the scope and remit of the review - Key Cities: Learning from others to maximise the effectiveness of Sunderland's Regeneration. The aim of the review is to look at the Key Cities Group and how Sunderland can best utilise its involvement for the benefit of Sunderland residents, businesses & future growth.
- 2.14 Nicola Morrow, Principal Policy Officer to the Leader, Nicola Morrow, and Key Cities Co-ordinator attended the meeting to give a brief overview of the Key Cities group and information on the 26 cities in the group. The Panel was asked to choose a shortlist of the cities that they felt would be most relevant and provide the most learning. These were Bournemouth, Coventry, Derby, Doncaster, Hull and Stoke-on Trent.
- 2.15 The next stage of the review will be to gather more information on the chosen cities for next month's meeting then the Panel will decide on 1 or 2 as the main focus for their review.

### ***Responsive Services and Customer Care (Cllr Ronny Davison)***

- 2.16 At its last meeting, the Panel received a presentation from Liz St Louis, Head of Customer Service and Development on the progress being made by the Council's customer services network, how the council makes use of customer satisfaction data and the way this information is used to improve services.
- 2.17 The Panel heard that, based on the information and provided by users, the service continually seeks to improve service delivery and highlight any emerging issues or trends facing the city. Every effort is made to deal with customer queries at the first point of contact and keep waiting times down to a minimum. Specialist advice and guidance is also on hand to deal with more complex or cross cutting queries. All complaints or service issues are monitored and every effort is made to learn from experience.
- 2.18 The Panel agreed to undertake a visit to the Customer Services office based in the Civic Centre in order to obtain a first-hand view of its operation.

## **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 29<sup>th</sup> September 2015 the breakdown of the budget stood as follows:-

| <b>Description</b>               | <b>£</b>       |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Scrutiny Development             | £4,581         |
| Member Development               | £898           |
| Policy Review Development        | £0.00          |
| <b>Total Expenditure to Date</b> | <b>£5,479</b>  |
| <b>Budget</b>                    | <b>£15,000</b> |
| <b>Remaining Budget</b>          | <b>£9,521</b>  |

## **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1 It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee;

- (a) notes and considers the update of the Lead Scrutiny Members and receives a further verbal update at the meeting;
- (b) notes the current expenditure and remaining scrutiny budget for 2015/16, and
- (c) notes and considers the Scrutiny Debate evaluation feedback from delegates.

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Scrutiny Committee Agenda and Papers – 10 September

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## MEMBERSHIP OF THE SIX SCRUTINY PANELS

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