

LEAD SCRUTINY MEMBER UPDATE: SEPTEMBER 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 Jacqui McKinlay, the Executive Director of the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS). Jacqui met and discussed scrutiny in Sunderland with Lead Scrutiny Members, council officers and key partners on Monday 20th July 2015. The Executive Director for CfPS will provide, for the review, an independent report of scrutiny arrangements in Sunderland that will assist the development and progression of the function.
- 2.2 The Safeguarding Working Group met on Tuesday 18th August 2015. The working group continues to monitor progress against the Sunderland Safeguarding Improvement Plan and the recent Ofsted inspection. The working group also discussed a number of issues related to child sexual exploitation and meetings are to be arranged to meet with safeguarding partners in the coming weeks.

Combined Authority Scrutiny Committee

- 2.3 The Committee met on 21st July in Sunderland. The main items of business were: collecting evidence for the policy review of transport related barriers to employment and also the progress in relation to the devolution proposals for the north east combined authority.

Children's Services (Cllr Darryl Dixon)

- 2.4 The Children's Panel discussed a number of options for policy review following the annual scrutiny debate. In particular, the Panel discussed the option of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SENd) Local Offer – one year on.
- 2.5 However, Panel members decided, based on the description of what is currently being undertaken to deliver the Local Offer, that the Scrutiny Panel could not add value to what is already being done and that this would not be the best use of scrutiny resources.
- 2.6 The Panel agreed that alternative options for the Children's Panel work programme were Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Councillors role in Safeguarding and outcome of the Ofsted Inspection of children in need, children looked after and care leavers.

City Services (Cllr Lynda Scanlan)

- 2.7 At its next meeting, the Panel will begin its review into the way in which street licences can support a vibrant city. The review will examine the way in which the policies and processes surrounding the granting of street licences can help to support the aim of a more vibrant city centre and also the potential for bringing greater flexibility to the process.
- 2.8 Richard Reading, Trading Standards and Licensing Manager will be in attendance to provide the background for the review. Ken Dunbar, Chief Executive of Sunderland BID has also been invited to the meeting to discuss these issues with the Panel.
- 2.9 Following the completion of this review, the Panel will 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)

- 2.10 The Health, Housing and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel met on Tuesday 28th July 2015 to agree the scope for their review into transition to adult social care. The Panel had a constructive discussion around the scope of the review and have agreed to look at the transition process from child to adult care services and how this is promoted and developed to ensure a sustainable and seamless transition to adulthood. The title of the review was agreed as 'Moving On: the transition from child to adult care services'.
- 2.11 The panel is will next meet on Tuesday 22nd September 2015 and this will be to provide an overview of current transition arrangements within the local authority.

Public Health, Wellness and Culture (Cllr George Howe)

- 2.12 Further to the 2nd July panel meeting, a short meeting was held with representatives from Sunderland Royal Hospital in relation to the Sexual Health element of the panel's shorter secondary review. The GUM (Genito Urinary Medicine clinic) representatives have agreed to come along to give an overview of services that they provide and also the panel will visit the clinic in October for a question and answer opportunity. This will be put to the panel for consideration at the 15th September meeting and the Sexual Health scoping document will also be presented for consideration at this meeting.
- 2.13 In line with the focus of the main policy review topic, Self-Harm, experts and service providers have confirmed attendance at the November panel in order to give evidence. This includes Washington Mind and Sunderland Mind for support services and Steve Williamson to provide an overview of the work done in schools in relation to self-harm.
- 2.14 'The Culture of Wellness' was requested to be reported back to the Public Health, Wellness and Culture Scrutiny Panel at its meeting in September. To fulfil this, Gillian Gibson (or representative) and Victoria French will attend the panel to provide an overview and update on current initiatives and work in this area.

Skills, Economy and Regeneration (Cllr David Snowdon)

- 2.15 The main topic for the Skills Economy & Regeneration Scrutiny Panel for 2015-16 will be Key Cities – Learning from others to maximise the effectiveness of Sunderland's Regeneration. This was agreed at the July Panel and members felt that it was essential that:

- Clear objectives are identified and the right cities chosen to study;
- Emphasis should not just be on physical regeneration but also economic and social regeneration;
- The right people are identified with the knowledge and willingness to share;
- If possible visiting and looking how things work should be a preference.

2.16 The next Panel will meet on September 17 where Nicola Morrow, Principle Policy Officer to the Leader and the Key Cities Co-ordinator will be attending to provide her expertise and knowledge of the other Key Cities.

Responsive Services and Customer Care (Cllr Ronny Davison)

2.17 At its next meeting, the Panel will receive a presentation from Liz St Louis, Head of Customer Service and Development on the progress made by customer services to date, how the council makes use of customer satisfaction data and the way we use information to improve services. This presentation will form part of the Panel's review into customer services.

2.18 Following the completion of this review, the Panel will go on to consider the progress being made in implementing of the new powers contained in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act and the way in which it is impacting on the work of the Council and its partners.

2.19 It is also suggested that, later in the year, the Panel should receive an update report on the implementation of Universal Credit within the city.

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 1st September 2015 the breakdown of the budget stood as follows:-

Description	£
Scrutiny Development	£2,758.55
Member Development	£898
Policy Review Development	£0.00
Total Expenditure to Date	£3,656.55
Budget	£15,000
Remaining Budget	£11,343.45

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 2014/15, and
- (c) notes and considers the Scrutiny Debate evaluation feedback from delegates.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Scrutiny Committee Agenda and Papers – 26 June

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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>