

Local Members' Interest
n/a

Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee – 10 June 2019

Work Programme Planning 2019/20

Recommendation

1. That the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee consider and agree an initial list of priorities to form the basis of the work programme for 2019/20.

Report of the Scrutiny and Support Manager

Summary

2. The Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee is responsible for:
 - Scrutiny of matters relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services in the Authority's area, including public health, in accordance with regulations made under the Health and Social Care Act 2001 and subsequent guidance including the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013. In accordance with these Regulations the County Council has agreed for these regulations to be discharged through the designated Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
 - Scrutiny of the Council's work to achieve its priorities that Staffordshire is a place where people live longer, healthier and fulfilling lives and In Staffordshire's communities people are able to live independent and safe lives, supported where this is required (adults).
3. In fulfilling its remit, the Committee may hold accountable the NHS bodies serving the county and, primarily, the Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing.
4. In developing a work programme the Committee is encouraged to identify issues that are a current priority for local people and communities and/or are a priority for the NHS, Council and partners. If a matter is a recurring issue for the people you collectively as Councillors represent, then the likelihood is that it is something the Committee should spend time on. The more relevant the issue is to local communities then the greater the likelihood of engaging those communities in the scrutiny process and of producing outcomes that will be visible to those communities. Members are encouraged to raise and discuss issues that should form the basis of the work programme and review these periodically throughout the year to ensure they remain relevant and will add value to what the NHS, Council and partners are doing.
5. The arrangements for scrutiny of matters relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services in the Authority's area continue to include the county's

eight District and Borough Councils, with work programme planning being the mechanism for delegated scrutiny. Therefore, the Committee also has a role to advise on the choice of topics for health scrutiny across Staffordshire Councils.

Report

Remit of the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee

6. Before considering this report, Members of the Committee have received a presentation on the health scrutiny function and the arrangements operating in Staffordshire, as well as the opportunity to discuss what working practices you may wish to adopt.
7. The NHS Constitution states that “the NHS belongs to the people. It is there to improve our health and wellbeing, supporting us to keep mentally and physically well, to get better when we are ill and, when we cannot fully recover, to stay as well as we can to the end of our lives. It works at the limits of science – bringing the highest levels of human knowledge and skill to save lives and improve health. It touches our lives at times of basic human need, when care and compassion are what matter most.”

The Committee has a key role in providing a constructive challenge to the delivery of these outcomes for people in Staffordshire by the NHS - with the County Council and partners.

8. The scrutiny structures have been designed to ensure effective accountability for the delivery against the Council’s key outcomes as set out in Staffordshire County Council’s Strategic Plan 2019-24. The Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee is responsible for holding to account the Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing.

The Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee has the power to make reports and recommendations to NHS bodies conferred by the Health and Social Care Act 2001.

The Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee may, within the scope of its allocated roles and responsibilities, respond independently to health related consultations from Government and external agencies.

9. The Committee will take the lead in scrutinising the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board and will develop a working relationship to enable this to be undertaken effectively.
10. In recognition that many District/Borough Council functions have an impact on health and wellbeing, the County Council has operated health scrutiny arrangements that include the District/Borough Councils in the county. Set out in the Code of Joint Working, the arrangements provide additional capacity (subject to effective work programme planning, co-ordination and delivery) to carry out work that leads to recommendations for improving access to and the quality of services - to reduce inequalities in health and wellbeing for people and communities in Staffordshire.

11. Whilst scrutiny cannot investigate individual complaints, it is there to challenge the NHS, Council and partners about increasing patient/service user and public involvement in the assessment and improvement of the quality of services. Scrutiny can contribute by investigating trends in community concerns, whether these are drawn from complaints data, councillor casework or identified local priorities.
12. In discharging its functions, the Committee has the power to make reports and recommendations to NHS bodies and the Council. It may respond independently to health related consultations.

Developing the Work Programme

13. This meeting is an opportunity for the Committee to begin to identify and prioritise what it wishes to scrutinise during the current municipal year and beyond.
14. Whilst Members are encouraged not to be overly scientific in choosing topics for scrutiny, the Code of Joint Working includes criteria to help you choose topics for the work programme where you are most likely to make a difference. In preparing for the meeting, Members are encouraged to reflect on trends in issues that fall within the remit of the Committee. Scrutiny is one opportunity to investigate issues of local concern that cut across the county. If there is a growing concern for local communities then it is more likely that any scrutiny will be able to engage those communities and result in outcomes that will be visible to them.
15. When agreeing matters for your work programme you are encouraged to ask the following questions:
 - a. Is the matter of particular concern to local people? You may wish to reflect on topics raised with you when canvassing.
 - b. Is the issue an identified priority for the County Council or partners?
 - c. Does the issue relate to an area of service with a trend in weak performance? For example, has this issue been identified by external auditors or inspectors?
 - d. What difference could scrutiny make?
 - e. What would happen if you did not look at this issue?
16. District and Borough Council committees dealing with health scrutiny will also have their own views on what they wish to scrutinise. The co-ordination of scrutiny activity is important in regard to assuring the quality of scrutiny activity and making the best use of resources. Once this Committee has its initial list of priorities, there will need to be liaison with the District and Borough Committees, in particular to agree how to deal with any matters of common interest.

Matters from Last Year's Work Programme

17. Whilst it is for the Committee to determine what they do and do not want to include in the work programme, there are some issues from last year that the Committee may want to consider. There is a draft Work Programme attached as Appendix 1.

Detailed below are issues which have been highlighted as potential items of work for the Committee to consider, both continuing items which have been commenced and new items which have been supported but not commenced.

- Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) – update on progress
- Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust – following the merger with the SSOTP
- Heathwatch Contract monitoring
- NEXXUS – the quality of the care provided.
- Modernising Adult Social Care Programme.
- CAMHs Strategy
- Autism Plan
- University Hospital Derby and Burton – consultation on the Stroke Service changes

Method of Scrutiny

18. Once Members have identified the matters they wish to scrutinise, consideration needs to be given to the most appropriate timing and method of scrutiny for that issue (proposals for some items may be provided). Members may wish to:
 - consider an item at a single meeting;
 - consider an item over a series of meetings;
 - allocate the work to a small group of Members to look at over a period of 2-3 months; or
 - undertake an inquiry day.
19. The choice of method will depend in part on the scope of the matter, capacity and the opportunity for locality working and community engagement in the review. Experience suggests that single issue meetings and small task groups tend to deliver greater recommendations and outcomes than heavy agenda at scheduled committee meetings.
20. With abolition of the Primary Care Trusts and the establishment of the Clinical Commissioning Groups, the Committee need to consider how it wishes to develop scrutiny arrangements around their commissioning and delivery of health services, in conjunction with the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Reviewing the Work Programme

21. There will be an opportunity to review the work programme at most Committee meetings. Members are encouraged to raise issues at any point during the year and this can be done by:

- completing the proposal form for work programme items (on line or in hard copy);
 - talking to the Chair / Vice Chair and Scrutiny and Support Team;
 - raising items under the 'Work Programme' item on meeting agenda; or
 - Councillor Call for Action.
22. The simplest method is to discuss the issue at the work programme item on the meeting agenda. In developing a work programme, Members do not need to set in stone the work programme for a full year. To prepare reports and for officers/ witnesses to attend meetings it is important to plan items for the next two to three meetings. Beyond that it is possible that new issues may have arisen that will take precedence; hence it is advisable to review the work programme quarterly and treat it as a fluid document. This way the Committee will be better able to respond to community concerns as and when they arise.

Link to Strategic Plan

23. The remits of the Council's Select Committees link to the strategic priorities set out in the County Council Strategic Plan 2014-18. Work programmes should link to community priorities or strategic outcomes if they are to deliver noticeable outcomes for local communities and the organisation.

Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity

24. Select Committees are encouraged to identify whether any of the issues for their work programmes are 'cross cutting' and would benefit from joint working.

Equalities and Legal Implications

25. The County Council has a responsibility to undertake adequate Equality Impact Assessments to ensure services do not have a negative impact on any one section of the community and the scrutiny committees have a role in ensuring that this responsibility is fulfilled, particularly in regard to health impact. Scrutiny as a function must also comply with the relevant legislation. When considering work programme items, especially when undertaking reviews of policy, the scrutiny committees must always consider whether their recommendations may impact differently on various individuals / sections of the community.
26. The Select Committees will be updated as necessary on any matters affecting their operation that relate to legislation, regulations, and the County Council's Constitution.

Resource and Value for Money Implications

27. Work programmes which are effectively prioritised will ensure that scrutiny activity is focused where it can be of greatest benefit.

Risk Implications

28. The key aspects of risk management in regard to scrutiny work programmes are:

- ensuring that there are clear outcomes from the scrutiny process that impact positively upon the people and communities of Staffordshire and link to corporate priorities; and
- that there is adequate capacity for the select committees to complete the work that has been agreed.

Climate Change Implications

29. The Committee will need to consider the implications for climate change of any recommendations it makes in relation to those issues included on the work programme. The Committee should also consider the implications of the scrutiny methods it decides to utilise – for example, travelling for best practice visits.

Contact Officer

Name: Nick Pountney, Scrutiny and Support Manager
Telephone No.: 01785 276153
Address/e-mail: nicholas.pountney@staffordshire.gov.uk

Name: Mandy Pattinson, Scrutiny and Support Officer
Telephone No.: 01785 278502
Address/e-mail: mandy.pattinson@staffordshire.gov.uk

Appendices/Background papers

Appendix 1 - Draft Work Programme