

Local Members Interest
N/A

Health and Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 7 June 2021

Work Programme Planning 2021/22

Recommendation

- a) That the Health and Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee consider and agree an initial list of priorities to form the basis of the work programme for 2021/22.

Report of the Scrutiny and Support Officer

Summary

The report and presentation will provide information and guidance for members to assist in the discussion and prioritisation of potential topics for inclusion in the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2021-22.

1. The Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee are responsible for:
 - a. 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.
 - b. Scrutiny of the Council's work to achieve the Staffordshire priorities to:
 - Inspire healthy, independent living
 - Support more families and children to look after themselves, stay safe and well
2. In fulfilling their remit, the Committee may hold accountable the NHS bodies serving the county and, primarily, the Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing.
3. In developing a work programme the Committee are encouraged to identify issues that are a current priorities for local people and communities and/or are a priorities for the NHS, the Council and their 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, the

Council and their partners are doing.

4. 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 eight Staffordshire District and Borough Councils, with work programme planning being the mechanism for delegated scrutiny. Therefore, the Committee also have a role to advise on the choice of topics for health scrutiny across the County..
5. The Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee are made up of elected County Councillors and one Councillor from each District or Borough Council. In turn, one County Councillor from the Committee sits on each District or Borough Council overview and scrutiny committee dealing with health scrutiny.
6. The Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee concentrates on scrutinising health matters that concern the whole or large parts of the County. The District and Borough Council committees focus on scrutinising health matters of local concern within their area.

Report

Remit of the Health and Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee

At the meeting members will receive presentations on the health scrutiny arrangements operating in Staffordshire and the work programme planning process.

This report provides background information and detail of the remit and of the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee, working practices that you may wish to adopt when planning how to carry out the scrutiny. For your reference : Appendix 1 provides a draft work programme for 2021-22 which will be populated at the meeting. Appendix 2 to the report provides a summary of matters considered in 2020-21.

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 have 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 their 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 2018-22. The Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee are responsible for holding to account the Cabinet Member for Health and Care. The Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee have the power to make reports and recommendations to NHS bodies conferred by the Health and Social Care Act 2001. The 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 have 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, the Council and their 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 their functions, the Committee have the power to make reports and recommendations to NHS bodies and the Council. They 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 they wish to scrutinise during the current municipal year and beyond. The Cabinet Member for Health and Care, the Director of Health and Care and Health partners will be in attendance to provide a summary of service priorities and challenges for Health and Care in Staffordshire.
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 their 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.
17. Once this Committee have their 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

18. There may be matters arising in 2020-21 municipal year that the Committee might wish to consider including in their 2021-22 Work Programme. A record of matters considered last year are attached at Appendix 2 for your information.
- 19 Detailed below are issues which have been highlighted as potential items of work for the Committee to consider on the draft work programme, both continuing items which have been commenced and new items which have been supported but not commenced.
 1. The Role of Community Hospitals within the Wider Health Economy (CCGs, MPFT, D&BUHFT)
 2. Information sharing between CCGs and Education (CCGs and SCC)
 3. 'Long' Covid-19 - Reponse by Health (CCGs and Accute Hospital Trusts)
 4. Health Dashboard (CCGs and Accute Hospital Trusts)
 5. Workforce Planning (Accute Hospital Trusts)
 6. Difficult Decisions (excluding Hearing Aids following CCG's decision to extend service) (CCGs)
 7. SCC Mental Health Strategy (SCC)
 8. George Bryan Centre, Lichfield (MPFT)
 9. Post Pandemic System Restoration and Recovery (CCGs)
 10. ICS and Urgent Care configuration engagement (CCGs/ICS)
 11. Wider Determinants of Health – Inquiry Day (CCGs and SCC).
 12. Staffordshire Healthwatch Annual Report and Contract (Healthwatch and SCC)
 13. Covid-19 Annual Vaccination Programme (CCGs)
 14. Going Digital in Health (CCGs)
 15. Care Homes – Future Strategy and Key Issues including Future Demand (SCC)

Matters arising on Forward Plan of Key Decisions

20. Key decisions to be taken by Cabinet are published monthly and follow this link : [Browse plans - Cabinet, 2021 - Staffordshire County Council](#) . Carrying our pre-decision scrutiny of a matter enables scrutiny to challenge and comment on decisions. The Forward Plan is available for Committee to view when considering its work programme.

Recurring Work Programme Items

21. Certain matters are regularly considered by the Committee in order to maintain overview of longer term issues, including updates from District and Borough Councils.

Training and development

22. Member and Democratic Services has delivered induction sessions on an Introduction to Overview and Scrutiny on 25 and 27 May 2021. Further training and development sessions will be run for Members as required. Members are invited to make any suggestions for development to the Chair or the Scrutiny and Support Manager.

Method of Scrutiny

23. 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:
 - a) consider an item at a single meeting
 - b) consider an item over a series of meetings
 - c) allocate the work to a small group of Members to look at over a period of 2-3 months and feed back to the Committee
 - d) undertake an inquiry day.
24. 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.
25. Members may consider that focus on a single issue in a meeting or small task group enables a deeper look at what and why there is a problem, this often provides clearer and deliverable recommendations to inform decision makers, shape policy and improve services for residents.
26. A scoping report will be produced for new items Members wish to consider. This will contain links to background research, the issues and reason for scrutiny questions and aims of the scrutiny work and it will assist Members in decide how to take the proposal to scrutinise forward.
27. Members can request more information on a subject to assist them in deciding whether or not additional scrutiny is required. A Briefing Note is requested and circulated to Members in advance of the meeting and then Members are asked if they consider additional scrutiny is required.

Reviewing the Work Programme

28. There will be an opportunity to review the Work Programme at every Committee meeting. Members are encouraged to raise issues at any point during the year and this can be done by:
 - a) talking to the Chairman/Vice Chairmen and Scrutiny and Support Team
 - b) raising items under the 'Work Programme' item on the meeting Agenda

29. In developing a Work Programme Members should agree potential work items for the municipal year. It is important to plan items in more detail for the next two to three meetings. Time needs to be allowed for officers to prepare reports and for the Cabinet Member(s), officers and witnesses to diary their attendance at meetings. It is possible that new issues may arise that need to be given priority and therefore it is advisable to review the work programme quarterly. This way the Committee will be better able to respond to community concerns as and when they arise.

Link to Strategic Plan

30. The remits of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees link to the strategic priorities set out in the County Council Strategic Plan 2018-22. 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

31. Overview and Scrutiny 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

32. The County Council have 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, committees must always consider whether their recommendations may impact differently on various individuals / sections of the community.
33. Overview and Scrutiny 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

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

Risk Implications

35. The key aspects of risk management in regard to scrutiny Work Programmes are:
- a) 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
 - b) that there is adequate capacity for the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to complete the work that has been agreed.

Climate Change Implications

36. 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.

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Appendices/Background papers

Appendix 1 – Draft Work Programme

Appendix 2 - 2020/2021 Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee Work Programme