

Scrutiny Sub-Committee for Promoting Strong, Healthy and Safe Communities



1 March 2004

Work Programme

Report of Head of Overview and Scrutiny

Purpose of the Report

1. To up-date Members of the Sub-Committee about the work programme for the Sub-Committee.

Background

2. The Work Programme provides the opportunity to plan the work of the Sub-Committee. The programme, however, does change in response to new issues which arise. The Work Programme, therefore, provides a guide in terms of forward planning and project management. The timing of projects in the programme constantly needs to be adjusted.

Current position

3. The Mental Health project has now ended and will report to Cabinet in early April 2004. The Social Services Sickness Absence Scrutiny Working Group has now concluded taking evidence and is expected to report in the next few months.
4. Given the conclusion of the above two projects, members may now wish to give consideration to the next area of work they want to undertake. To assist members with this process, details of the Council's Strategic Objectives, Medium Term Priorities for Improvement and Investment Priorities in relation to Strong Healthy and Safe Communities agreed by Cabinet on 11 December 2003 are attached. Also included are the relevant Challenges contained within the County Durham Strategic Vision. Members will recall that the Scrutiny Development Session held in January also considered possible areas for scrutiny investigation in 2004 and details of those areas identified in relation to Strong, Healthy and Safe Communities are also attached for information.

Recommendations

5. You are recommended to note the current Work Programme and give consideration to an area/areas for possible scrutiny investigation.

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**SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE FOR
PROMOTING STRONG, HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES**

DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME

March 2003 – October 2004

CALENDAR	PROJECT		REVIEW
2003			
March	Mental Health of Young People	Regular Performance Management	Reducing Child Road Deaths and Injuries <input type="checkbox"/>
April			
May		Social Services Sickness Absence	
June			
July			Aids and Adaptations
August			Carrier Bag Culture
September		Regular Performance Management	
October			
November			
December		Regular Performance Management	
2004			
January			
February	↓		Carrier Bag Culture <input type="checkbox"/>
March		Regular Performance Management	
April	↓		Aids and Adaptations
May			
June		Regular Performance Management	
July			
August			
September		Regular Performance Management	
October			Mental Health of Young People

= Completed

PROMOTING STRONG, HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

Strategic objectives (with priority areas in bold):

- ◆ To enable all people to participate in community life, become active citizens and develop a sense of place and cultural identity
- ◆ **To support and protect vulnerable adults, young people and children**
- ◆ **To help to reduce the fear of crime**
- ◆ To help to make County Durham a safer place
- ◆ To help to improve the health of local people
- ◆ **To invest in our children and young people**

Medium term priorities for improvement:

- ◆ Increase choice and diversity in services for Older People
- ◆ Improve life chances for children and integrate services for children and young people in line with the proposals outlined in the Green Paper 'Every Child Matters'
- ◆ Respond to the individual and diverse needs of people with a learning disability
- ◆ Integrate services across all SSD service user groups
- ◆ Develop preventative services in localities
- ◆ Clarify and communicate the Council's role in improving health and reducing health inequalities
- ◆ Implement the Council's action plan for drugs, alcohol and substance misuse
- ◆ Work to meet the targets in the Youth Justice Plan
- ◆ Complete the programme for extra care homes
- ◆ Engage in and support the development of a county-wide strategy for housing and innovative regeneration initiatives to promote sustainable communities

Investment priorities:

- ◆ Services for older people
- ◆ Children's services (implications of the Green Paper 'Every Child Matters')

County Durham Strategic Vision Challenges

Challenge 6

Build a strong voluntary and community sector with the capacity to encourage and support local people in making decisions that affect their lives and to expand social enterprises and voluntary organisations.

Challenge 9

Take a radical approach to housing and neighbourhood renewal by replacing and improving housing, providing sites for new homes and developing innovative regeneration initiatives to promote sustainable communities.

Challenge 10

Improve health to match the national average, by tackling the underlying causes of poor health – poverty and unemployment, housing and environment, lifestyles and access to services.

Challenge 11

Provide seamless and integrated services to promote healthy, safe, caring, diverse and socially balanced communities with equality and access to services at their heart.

**PROJECTS SUGGESTED AT THE DEVELOPMENT SESSION ON
5 JANUARY 2004**

COMMUNITIES SUB-COMMITTEE

PROJECT	WHY	OUTCOME SOUGHT
1. Fear of Crime	Impact on most residents.	Co-operation with partners Seek to change community attitude and responsibility.
2. Support and Services for Vulnerable Adults	Response to White Paper.	Pattern of services to be provided by DCC.
3. Children's Services Review	Proximity of Green Paper.	Beacon status provider.
4. Modernising Services for Older People	Lack of re-visiting previous working group report.	To be reviewed on a six monthly basis.

