

7 June 2004

Work Programme

Report of Head of Overview and Scrutiny

Purpose of the Report

1. To update 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 Social Services Sickness Absence Scrutiny Working Group has now concluded and the Report is included elsewhere on the Sub-Committee agenda.
4. At the last meeting of the Sub-Committee, it was agreed that the next project would examine Fear of Crime issues in County Durham. Members of the Sub-Committee were invited to attend a Police Authority sponsored event on 10 May 2004 to hear a presentation by a criminologist specialising in fear of crime issues. The first meeting of the Working Group will be held shortly.

Recommendations

5. You are recommended to note the current Work Programme. Details of issues highlighted previously in the Council's priorities, in the Strategic Vision and identified by scrutiny members earlier in 2004 as areas for possible scrutiny investigation are attached for information.

Contact: Tom Bolton Tel: 0191 383 3149

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

DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME

May 2003 – December 2004

| CALENDAR | PROJECT | | REVIEW |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 2003 | | | |
| 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 | | | Minding the Gap |
| November | | | |
| December | | Regular performance Management | Sickness Absence |

= 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. |