

Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

7 July 2020



Refresh of the Work Programme 2020/21 for the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Report of John Hewitt, Corporate Director of Resources

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide members with a suggested work programme for the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2020/21.

Executive summary

- 2 Overview and Scrutiny work programmes are designed to be flexible to accommodate items which may arise throughout the year. For 2020/21 this flexibility is essential to enable the scrutiny function to respond to the changing landscape of the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- 3 The proposed Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme has been framed around COVID-19 and in the context of the new shared County Durham vision 2035. It reflects the long and independent lives strategic ambition therein.
- 4 The work programme has been developed to reflect new powers which enable local government meetings to be held remotely during this period. Holding virtual meetings has prompted us to consider how best to carry out the scrutiny role in these new and challenging circumstances.
- 5 The Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee received an initial report on the refresh of its work programme for 2020/21. The work programme has also been developed in conjunction with health partners and ongoing activity undertaken by the Committee during 2019/20.

Recommendation(s)

- 6 Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:
- (a) Receive and comment on the proposed Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2020/21
 - (b) Agree the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2020/21 as attached And the flexibility that it offers to respond to emerging issues.

Background

- 7 Whilst the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee scheduled for 3 April 2020 was cancelled because of the Coronavirus Pandemic, an initial work programme report setting out the key areas of activity undertaken by the Committee during 2019/20 was circulated for members' information and comment.
- 8 Scrutiny has adapted to the unprecedented situation of a global pandemic with a flexible and pragmatic approach to the 2020/21 work programme. New regulations enable committee meetings to be held remotely and formal scrutiny committee meetings will be held virtually for the foreseeable future.
- 9 To assist with the new approach to meetings we propose to keep agendas short to ensure virtual meeting time is focused on those matters which are the highest priority. Where agreed by the committee, regular overview reports will instead be circulated separately via email for comment and information. We hope that by doing this , we can help make the process of moving meetings online as smooth as possible and manage our workload efficiently and effectively.
- 10 As we all become more familiar with holding remote meetings, we will review our agendas and work programmes with the Chair/Vice Chair, and make any necessary changes in consultation with the committee.
- 11 This prioritisation of work programme issues will enable the scrutiny function to operate flexibly and take into consideration any changing national, regional or local responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 12 The scrutiny work programme is informed by:
- County Durham vision 2035
 - Council Plan

- Cabinet Notice of Key Decisions
- Partner plans and strategies
- Performance and budgetary control data
- Changes in government legislation
- Key changes for improving performance

Adults Wellbeing and Health OSC Work Programme

- 13 A number of areas of work have been identified that will continue on into 2020/21 including key service development and reviews across health and social care in respect of:-
- a) The future of services currently delivered at Shotley Bridge Hospital.
 - b) Health and Social Care integration
 - c) Stroke Rehabilitation Services/Ward 6 Bishop Auckland Hospital.
 - d) Out of Hours Services/Urgent Treatment Centre at Peterlee Community Hospital.
 - e) Path to Excellence Phase 2.
 - f) The emerging Integrated Care System and Integrated Care Partnerships.

Areas for consideration in the AWHOSC Work Programme

- 14 The committee is asked to consider and agree to the proposed work programme for the coming year in the context of the challenges that the council faces primarily in respect of the response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the shared County Durham vision 2035 and NHS partner priorities and strategies.
- 15 Appendix 2 provide information for members to note and comment on the suggested Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2020/21. The proposed work programme schedule includes an indication of those reports which will be considered by AWHOSC at a remote meeting and those which will be circulated to members. The dates when reports are taken too

committee or circulated may flex with the additional demands on and capacity of services during the COVID-19 response period.

Background papers

- None

Contact: Stephen Gwilym

Tel: 03000 268140

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

None

Finance

None

Consultation

None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None

Human Rights

None

Climate Change

None

Crime and Disorder

None

Staffing

None

Accommodation

None

Risk

The Overview and Scrutiny work programme is an important element of the Council's governance and risk management arrangements.

Procurement

None

Appendix 2:

The proposed 2020/21 work programme for the Adults Wellbeing and Health OSC is attached.