

Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

28 July 2021



Refresh of the Adults Wellbeing and Health OSC Work Programme 2021/22

Report of Paul Darby, Interim Corporate Director of Resources

Electoral division(s) affected:

None

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide members with a suggested work programme for the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (AWHOSC) for 2021/2022.

Executive summary

- 2 Overview and Scrutiny Committees review their work programme each year to reflect the objectives and associated outcomes and actions identified within the Council Plan and in the context of the County Durham Vision 2035.
- 3 The proposed AWHOSC work programme has been framed around the shared County Durham Vision 2035 and also reflects the 'long and independent lives' strategic ambition therein. The draft work programme also reflects NHS Partner strategies, priorities and actions that have been developed.
- 4 Overview and scrutiny work programmes are designed to be flexible to accommodate items which may arise throughout the year. This flexibility is particularly important as we make our way along the government's roadmap out of lockdown. We will consider how best to enable the scrutiny function to respond in these times of continuing uncertainty.

Recommendations

5 The Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- a) Receive and comment on the proposed Adults Wellbeing and Health OSC work programme for 2021/22
- b) Agree the Adults Wellbeing and Health OSC work programme for 2021/2022 and the flexibility it offers to respond to emerging issues.

Background

- 6 Scrutiny committee meetings have recently returned to meeting in person following the use of remote arrangements under COVID-19 emergency regulations. During the lockdown period work programmes were reviewed to enable remote meetings to focus on matters of the highest priority. As a result, regular overview reports were circulated to members via email for comment.
- 7 The number of meetings in the corporate calendar available to overview and scrutiny have also been substantially reduced since March 2020 due to staff capacity to support virtual meetings. At this point we are unsure how many meetings we will be allocated for 2021/22 and will reprioritise work programmes if circumstances change. Any review of work programmes will take place with the chair and vice chair and in consultation with the committee.
- 8 The current overview and scrutiny committees work programmes are informed by:
 - Council Plan
 - Cabinet's Notice of Key Decisions
 - County Durham Vision for 2035
 - Partnership plans and strategies including those of NHS Partners
 - Performance and budgetary control data
 - Changes in government legislation
 - Local priorities
- 9 The County Durham Partnership agreed a Vision for County Durham 2035 based on a strategic assessment of need using our intelligence platform Durham Insight and developed following extensive consultation with the public. This sets out our strategic direction and what we would like to achieve over the next 15 years and is written around three broad ambitions for the people of County Durham:
 - More and better jobs
 - People live long and independent lives
 - Connected communities

- 10 These remain the strategic ambitions in our response to the COVID-19 crisis, where key impacts relate to employment, health and wellbeing, and communities. They will also remain key as restrictions ease and we move along the roadmap from national lockdown and we continue with our restoration and recovery.

Council Plan 2020 - 2023

- 11 The Council Plan is the primary corporate planning document for the county council and details Durham County Council's contribution towards achieving the objectives set out in the Vision for County Durham 2035 together with its own change agenda. It aims to provide a readable and accessible summary for members, partners and the public of our priorities for the county and the main programmes of work that we will undertake over the coming three years to help achieve these priorities.
- 12 Both the Vision for County Durham and the Council Plan are structured around the three ambitions which are mentioned above. An additional ambition of an excellent council has been developed for the Council Plan to capture the corporate initiatives that the council has identified and wants to undertake to transform its operations and enable achievement of the ambitions within the vision.
- 13 The Committee is charged with scrutinising the delivery of the County Durham ambitions of ' people live long and independent lives and Council Plan objectives of:-

People Live Long and Independent Lives

- Better integration of health and social care services;
- People will be supported to live independently for as long as possible by delivering more homes to meet the needs of older and disabled people;
- Tackling the stigma and discrimination of poor mental health and building resilient communities;
- Promotion of positive behaviours.

Current Work Programme

- 14 In addition to providing a scrutiny role for activity of the Council, the Committee is also the designated Health Scrutiny Committee for the Council for the purposes of the Health and Social Care Act 2012. The Committee therefore leads on the review and scrutiny of NHS Services,

Adult Social Care, Health inequalities and improvement and Public Health Services.

- 15 During 2020/2021, the AWHOSC prioritised items to be considered at a reduced number of formal meetings due to the coronavirus pandemic. Reports on other items were circulated via email to members. However, although there was a reduced number of formal meetings the committee has undertaken budgetary and performance monitoring, scrutiny review work and overview presentations.
- 16 In depth and light touch scrutiny reviews including updates were:
- Update of progress against recommendations of the Review into Suicide Rates and Mental Health and Wellbeing in County Durham
 - Scrutiny Review of GP Services across County Durham
- 17 Overview Activity:-
- Public Health Response to COVID-19 Pandemic
 - County Durham Care Partnership response to COVID-19 Pandemic
 - Local Outbreak Management Plan Update (x3)
 - Primary Care Update
 - Adult Social Care Overview
 - Winter Planning 2020-21
 - Health Impact Assessment for Health Inequalities
 - Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS FT – CQC Inspection results and Improvement Update
 - Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS FT – COVID-19 Pandemic Update
 - Integrated Care Systems Update
 - NHS County Durham CCG – Development of a Primary Care Investment Strategy
 - Shotley Bridge Hospitals Update

- Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS FT – Quality Account Update

18 Budgetary and performance monitoring:

- Quarterly budgetary monitoring for the Adults and Health service grouping.
- Quarterly corporate performance monitoring overview for the Adults and Health service grouping.

19 The Adults Wellbeing and Health OSC has also considered the following areas which cut across objectives within the Council Plan or the remit of other Overview and Scrutiny Committees:-

- Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services Update – CYPOSC 9 October 2020
- Fuel Poverty – ESCOSC 12 February 2021
- Director of Public Health Annual Report – CYOSC 12 April 2021

Areas for consideration in the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

20 The Committee are asked to agree the proposed work programme for next year. This is set in the context of the challenges the Council faces:

- The recovery and restoration following the COVID-19 pandemic and the government's roadmap out of lockdown restrictions;
- The shared County Durham Vision 2035;
- Emerging Government legislation.

21 Paragraphs 16-19 of this report identifies the activity undertaken by the committee during 2020/21. The committee is asked to consider areas for further progress updates and review topics to be included in the work programme for 2021/2022 in light of the current Council Plan and the Vision for County Durham 2035. Appendix 2 of this report sets out a draft work programme for consideration.

Background papers

- [Council Plan 2020 - 2023](#)
- [A Vision for County Durham 2035](#)

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

None

Finance

None

Consultation

None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None

Climate Change

None

Human Rights

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: Adults Wellbeing and Health OSC Work Programme

Attached as a separate document.