

Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

14 July 2023



Work Programme 2023/24 for the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Report of Paul Darby, Corporate Director of Resources

Electoral division(s) affected:

None

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (AWHOSC) with a work programme for 2023/24.

Executive summary

- 2 AWHOSC 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 have an extensive work programme and we must ensure that we are able to accommodate issues that may arise during the term of the work programme.

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 2022/23 (copy attached at Appendix 2);
- b) Agree the Adults Wellbeing and Health OSC work programme for 2022/2023 and the flexibility it offers to respond to emerging issues;
- c) Consider a topic for in-depth or light touch review activity.

Background

- 6 The AWHOSC work programme is refreshed annually and takes into consideration the priorities of the Committee, areas identified by service groupings and also NHS Partner strategies, priorities and actions that have been developed.
- 7 The current overview and scrutiny committees work programmes are informed by:
 - County Durham Vision for 2035
 - Council Plan
 - Cabinet's Notice of Key Decisions
 - Partnership plans and strategies including those of NHS Partners
 - Performance and budgetary control data
 - Changes in government legislation
- 8 The County Durham Partnership agreed a Vision for County Durham 2035 which sets out our strategic direction and what we would like to achieve by this date. The vision was developed with partner organisations and the public and is structured around three broad ambitions for the people of County Durham:
 - More and better jobs
 - People live long and independent lives
 - Connected communities
- 9 Each ambition contains a number of objectives together with some council specific objectives. Following the refresh of the council plan in April 2022, it is now structured around five objectives which capture the three ambitions:
 - Our Economy

- Our People
- Our Communities
- Our Environment
- Our Council

Council Plan 2023-2027

- 10 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 ambitious agenda. It provides a summary for members, partners and the public of our priorities for the county and the main programmes of work that we will undertake to help achieve these priorities.
- 11 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. Within this context, the relevant objectives that apply to the AWHOSC:-

People will have long and independent lives

- Promotion of positive behaviours;
 - Tackle the stigma and discrimination of poor mental health and build resilient communities
 - 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;
 - Support people whose circumstances make them vulnerable and protect adults with care and support needs from harm;
 - Protect and improve the health of the local population, tackling leading causes of illness and death.
- 12 The Council Plan has been structured around 5 objectives: Our Economy; Our People; Our Communities; Our Environment and Our Council. The key Council Plan objective for AWHOSC is Our People – wanting residents to live long and independent lives and in good health, protecting and

improving residents health whilst tackling leading causes of illness and death; tackling health inequalities caused by the pandemic including mental health challenges; building our strong record for integrating health and social care and by building on the support the Council has provided to the care sector, ensuring we have a high quality care market that is sustainable for the future.

Adults Wellbeing and Health OSC

- 13 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.
- 14 During 2022/2023, the Committee held six scheduled meetings, one special meeting and one informal briefing session. Supplementary briefing reports on issues identified by NHS Partner were circulated via email to members. The committee has undertaken budgetary and performance monitoring, responded to consultations and considered overview and progress monitoring reports and presentations in relation to the following:
- 15 Consultations
 - Draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2022-25
 - Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy
 - Oral Health Promotion Strategy 2023
 - NHS Foundation Trust Quality Account 2021/22 responses and 2022/23 priorities for
 - North East Ambulance Service NHS FT
 - County Durham and Darlington NHS FT
 - Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS FT
- 16 Overview Activity:-
 - Winter Planning and the work of the Local Accident and Emergency Delivery Board 2022/23
 - Shotley Bridge Community Hospital
 - COVID-19 Transition Plan
 - Health Protection Annual Assurance
 - North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care System
 - Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys CQC Inspection Update

- Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys CQC Inspection – Inpatient Wards for Adult patients with a learning disability or autism
- County Durham GP Appointments and access
- Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022
- Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report 2022
- Safeguarding Adults Annual Report 2022
- North East Ambulance Service NHS FT – CQC Inspection Report and Improvement Action Plan

17 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.

18 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 (CAMHS)
- Leisure Transformation
- Alcohol and Drug Harm Reduction Group Update

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

- 19 Members of the AWHOSC are asked to agree the proposed work programme for 2023/24 that has been prepared and is attached at Appendix 2. The work programme is very comprehensive drawing on topical areas across the remit of the committee and it should be noted that it is also flexible.
- 20 Paragraphs 15 to 18 of the report identifies the activity undertaken by the Committee during 2022/23. The committee is asked to consider areas and review topics for inclusion in the work programme for 2023/24 in light of the current Council Plan and Vision for County Durham 2035. It is also important that members are able to respond to any statutory health service plans and/or consultations that are received during the course of the year.
- 21 Members are encouraged to identify areas of scrutiny investigation (in depth and light touch reviews) from the work programme. However, it is

anticipated that input from the thematic OSCs will be required into the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 13 development and beyond. This might include more detailed examination of budgets against the context of ongoing financial pressures faced by the Council and the need to identify further efficiencies or areas of income generation. This would impact on the committee's intention to carry out review activity in other areas for this work programme.

Conclusion

22 The work programme identifies areas of work that fall within the remit of the AWHOSC and is flexible in its delivery.

Background papers

- [A Vision for County Durham 2035](#)
- [Council Plan 2023/24 to 2026/27](#)

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

Not applicable

Finance

Not applicable

Consultation

Not applicable

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Not applicable

Human Rights

Not applicable

Climate Change

Not applicable

Crime and Disorder

Not applicable

Staffing

Not applicable

Accommodation

Not applicable

Risk

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

Procurement

Not applicable

Appendix 2: Adults Wellbeing and Health OSC Work Programme

Attached as a separate document.