

TITLE OF REPORT: Annual Work Programme Review and Forward Plan

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Summary

This report is set out in two parts. The first part highlights how the work of this Committee has helped influence / shape the development of policy /decision making / performance improvement work during 2018-19 and the second part details proposals for the development of the work programme for Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSCs) and sets out the provisional work programme for the Care Health and Wellbeing OSC for the municipal year 2019-20.

Annual Review

1. During 2018-19 the OSC has sought to influence and shape policy development / decision making, performance improvement work via the following routes.
2. During this period the OSC's recommendations relating to the OSC's Review of Work to address the harms caused by tobacco have been implemented, following approval by Cabinet. The OSC has monitored progress on the implementation of these recommendations at its meeting on 11 December 2018. At that stage, the OSC recommendations had led to the Council, along with the other six Tyne and Wear local authorities, continuing to fund Fresh throughout 2019/20 as it was considered important to continue the development of hard-hitting mass media campaigns which have a strong evidence base in triggering quit attempts, encouraging quitters to stay quit, and reducing uptake among children. As the five Teeside authorities had or would be discontinuing their funding from April 2019 Gateshead, along with the six other councils, had agreed to increase contributions to meet the shortfall in 2019/20.
3. In addition, it was noted that as part of the Thrive agenda, Public Health would be working to develop a systematic programme to embed a Health in All Policies approach from 2019. Discussions were also ongoing between Public Health and Learning and Schools to explore how NICE guidance on Smoking Prevention in Schools could be embedded and information was being shared at that time with schools via a "Health resources" section at <http://www.servicesforschoolsnortheast.org.uk/>
4. The OSC had also learned that through the Making Every Contact Count (MECC) approach in Gateshead "Very Brief Advice (VBA) on Smoking" training had been delivered to staff and volunteers from the voluntary and community sector signed up to MECC. The training had also been delivered to over 100 housing staff from TGHC and staff from Gateshead Libraries and staff from the screening team at the

QE Hospital. This delivery of VBA training was ongoing as the roll out of Making Every Contact Count continued. The training focussed on the skills, knowledge and confidence to deliver brief interventions on stopping smoking and accessing the Stop Smoking Service, ecigarettes and second-hand smoke.

5. The OSC also learned that the recommendations had led to the Board of the Queen Elizabeth NHS Foundation Hospital Trust nominating a Quality Improvement Lead to drive forward improvements in identifying and treating nicotine dependence. The Trust was being supported in doing this by staff from the Public Health team. The Local Maternity System (commissioners and providers working together to ensure that women, babies and families can access the services they need and choose) had also appointed a Regional Prevention Co-ordinator who had established smoking in pregnancy as a priority for action and this post holder would support the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to improve action on smoking in pregnancy.
6. The OSC indicated at that time that it was satisfied with the level of progress made and the future work outlined. The OSC will consider a further report in relation to progress against its recommendations at its meeting today.
7. During this period the OSC also carried out a Review of work to Help People Stay at Home Safely and will consider a report setting out its findings and recommendations at its meeting today. These recommendations will then be presented to a future Cabinet meeting for approval and, subject to these recommendations being agreed, the OSC will then monitor implementation of these recommendations during its 2019-20 work programme.
8. The OSC has monitored Council performance generally, in those areas falling within its remit, at its meetings on 19 June 2018 and 11 December 2018 and Cabinet has had regard to the OSC's views when considering Council performance overall.
9. The OSC has also monitored progress in relation to the following specific areas of performance and the OSC's comments have been fed into the improvement work progressed by relevant service areas and fed back to relevant partners.
 - Social Services Annual Report on Complaints and Representations
10. In addition, this OSC has been formally consulted as a stakeholder by Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group on proposed changes to urgent care services in Sunderland. At that time, the OSC raised concerns that the proposals would place extra pressure on the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Gateshead GP's but received reassurances that extra provision/capacity was being put in place to cope with the increase. The OSC's views were fed back to Sunderland CCG and the North of England Commissioning Support team supporting the CCG confirmed the comments would be incorporated in the final feedback report on the consultation.
11. This OSC has also been consulted by Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust on two occasions on proposals relating to an exit strategy for St Bede's Day Care Services and the Younger Persons Dementia Unit which were situated at the Dunston Hill site. At that time, the OSC sought reassurances that the main driver for the proposals was not financial and was assured that this was not the case. The OSC also sought to understand how services users had been engaged in respect of the proposals and what the Trust had done or was doing to mitigate against any

potential negative impacts on service users arising from the proposals. Councillors on the OSC also carried out a site visit to the Dunston Hill Site to assist them in their understanding of the actual condition of the site. The OSC subsequently indicated that it was satisfied with the consultation carried out by the Trust and that the proposals outlined in relation to both services were in the interests of the local health service. The OSC did, however, seek assurances that the Trust would continue to work with services users at St Bede's Day Care Services and Adult Social Care and other relevant organisations to ensure that their needs were met and they had ongoing support to make an effective transition to other services. The OSC requested that the Trust come back to the OSC in approximately six months' time to update on progress in relation to the implementation of the proposals. Representatives of the Trust are attending the OSC meeting today to provide the requested update.

12. The OSC has also been informed of proposals to amalgamate GP practice sites at Dunston Health Centre and Glenpark Medical Practice into one purpose built medical centre and provided with details on the engagement carried out with patients and stakeholders. The OSC noted that the engagement exercise showed overwhelming support for the proposals.
13. The OSC's views have also been sought and provided on the Quality Accounts for Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust and Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust for 2017-18.

Development of 2018-19 Work Programme

14. Every year each Overview and Scrutiny Committee draws up a work programme based on the Council's policy framework which is then agreed by the Council as part of the policy planning process.
15. The Committee's work programme is a rolling programme which sets the agenda for its six weekly meetings. It is the means by which it can address the interests of the local community, focus on improving services and seek to reduce inequalities in service provision and access to services.
16. Under the Council's constitution the issues which will be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees come from a number of sources:
 - During the year the Committee may choose to scrutinise decisions made by the Cabinet to ensure decisions are taken properly;
 - The Committee may be requested by the Cabinet to carry out reviews of particular issues in accordance with the Council's policy priorities;
 - The Committee will receive six-monthly reports on performance for comment to Cabinet;
 - The Committee will receive reports on relevant service improvement reviews at key stages of development to confirm to Cabinet that reviews are progressing appropriately;
 - Section 119 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and Section 126 of the Police and Criminal Justice Act 2006 enable any member of the Council to refer to a relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee any local government matter and any crime and disorder matter which affects their ward or constituents
 - Members of the Committee may identify particular issues for consideration;

- Members may also examine issues in the Council's Forward Plan; and
- In addition, where the Committee has reasonable concerns about a particular executive decision the call-in mechanism is available.

17. This year OSC members have been involved in shaping the focus of the work of specific OSCs via email and provided with an opportunity to comment on the emerging themes for specific OSCs at the scheduled January OSC meetings. The emerging themes have taken account of key performance issues / challenges / legislative changes affecting the work of the Council within the forthcoming twelve months which fall within the specific remits of each OSC and the 5 pledges under the Thrive agenda:-

- Put people and families at the heart of everything that we do
- Tackle inequality so people have a fair chance
- Support our communities to support themselves and each other
- Invest in our economy to provide sustainable opportunities for employment, innovation and growth across the borough.
- Work together and fight for a better future for Gateshead

18. Subsequently, the Council has consulted partner organisations on the emerging themes for each OSC for 2019-20 and partners have indicated that they are supportive of the emerging themes.

19. The attached provisional work programme (Appendix 1) has therefore taken account of the following:-

- Six-monthly performance reporting
- The Thrive agenda and the Council Plan and partnership work generally
- Current issues referred to Committees
- Details of potential review topics/case studies
- Legislative provisions and guidance on the Councillor Call for Action

20. The work programme remains provisional as:-

- Cabinet has not had the opportunity to fully review its work programme and it may wish to refer further issues to Overview and Scrutiny Committees for further consideration;
- It does not take account of new policy issues which may be identified during the year, which Cabinet may refer to Overview and Scrutiny; and
- It does not include issues identified by members of committees on an ongoing basis during the year as a result of scrutiny of decisions, call – in and councillor call for action.

Recommendations

21. The Committee is asked to:-

- a) Note the information contained in the annual review and provide any comments.
- b) Endorse the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's provisional work programme for 2019 - 20 attached at Appendix 1 and refer it to Council on 23 May 2019 for agreement.
- c) Note that further reports will be brought to the Committee to identify any additional issues which the Committee may be asked to consider.

