

TITLE OF REPORT: Review of Annual Work Programme

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Summary

The report updates and seeks the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's views on the current position with regard to the annual work programme.

Background

1. At its meeting on 21 April 2015, the Care, Health and Well-being Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed its work programme based on the Council's policy framework. This work programme was then agreed by the Council as part of the policy planning process.
2. In line with the process agreed by all OSCs this OSC selected its review topic and case studies using a process designed to help make linkages between potential topics and the Council's policy framework.

Proposals

OSC Review Topics for 2016/17

3. In advance of the OSC agreeing its review topic for 2016-17, members of the OSC have been invited to identify any issues which may potentially be appropriate for a detailed review by 18 December 2015. It is proposed that those issues put forward by members are added to the list of potential review topics for consideration by the OSC at the start of the municipal year, unless the issue is already being, or would more appropriately be, dealt with through other processes within the Council. Members will be notified if this is the case and advised as to how their issue is being dealt with.

Monitoring of OSC Reviews

4. All of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee's have received feedback on the outcomes of the specific reviews undertaken by them during 2015-16. This Committee has received a monitoring report on the outcomes generated by its Review of Mental Health and Wellbeing on

15 September 2015 and will receive a further monitoring report on 19 April 2016.

Case Studies

5. Case studies have been included within OSC work programmes to provide an additional means of examining specific issues of concern/carrying out more detailed work on a particular topic/measure the impact of a particular OSC's review recommendations over a specific period of time.
6. The case studies for 2015/16 are:
 - Carers (January 2016)
 - MASH (March 2016)
7. Each OSC has identified specific issues to be considered through the case study method and it was agreed that in view of the timing of case studies within the 2014-15 work programmes that feedback on their effectiveness be sought during its work programme review in 2015/16.
8. During 2014/15 the OSC considered the following case study :-
 - Health Protection and Assurance

The OSC focused on:-

- the progress being made in relation to the Council's new role in providing an assurance for health protection arrangements.
- the arrangements that the Director of Public Health for Gateshead has put in place to assure the Health and Wellbeing Board that their responsibilities are being delivered
- the level of performance against each activity and of major issues for Gateshead since April 2013 when the Council took over these functions.

Having examined the issues the OSC :

- expressed concern that six schools had not taken part in the pilot programme to deliver the national flu immunisation programme to primary school age children in year six
- noted that in the pilot there was a requirement for a parent to be in attendance and queried whether this was a factor in affecting take up.
- Received information that it is not mandatory for schools to participate and the school nursing service is used to encourage participation.
- Received information that the issue of parental attendance was being considered as part of the evaluation of the pilot and how it was to be taken forward in the future.

In light of the above, the OSC indicated it was satisfied with the progress made and requested that its comments be fed back to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Recommendations

9. The Committee is asked to

- (i) Note that any issues identified by members of the OSC as potential review topics by 18 December 2015 will be included in the list of review topics to be considered by the OSC at the start of the municipal year unless such issues are being or would more appropriately be dealt with via other Council processes.
- (ii) Give its views on the review monitoring process carried out so far.
- (iii) Give its views on the effectiveness of the case study carried out in 2015/16.