

Council

Circulated to all Councillors – 2 July 2020

Report of the Chair

Annual Report of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Exempt Information

None.

Purpose

To provide full Council with an overview of the work and activities undertaken by the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee during the year 2019/20.

Executive Summary

This report covers the following:

- Chair's overview
- Working Groups
- Recommendations made in the year to Cabinet
- Committee Terms of Reference
- Membership and Attendance
- Training & Effectiveness
- Work Plan
- Resource implications

Recommendations

Council is requested to:

- Note the Annual Report of the Committee;
- Note the updated process for production and consideration of this Annual Report;

Chair's Overview

The Committee met 7 times in the 2019/20 municipal year. The final (expected to be eighth) meeting of the municipal year in April 2020 was cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic, although the main item due to be considered at that meeting, the Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk of Abuse Report, was circulated to all committee members.

This Committee has within its remit the scrutiny of the achievement of the Council's strategic priorities by scrutinising the performance of the Cabinet and external providers in securing a safe environment in which local people can reach their full potential and live longer, healthier lives.

Staffordshire County Council, as the upper tier authority responsible for social care in Staffordshire, has the powers to review and scrutinise any matters relating to the planning, provision of health services in its area (Staffordshire) and works with local

district and borough councils. The focus for Tamworth Borough Council's health scrutiny function is on local matters with an impact specific to Tamworth. To aid the coordination of activities, a representative of this Council's scrutiny committee is a member of the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee (this is currently the Chair, Councillor Ford, or his substitute) and a member of the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee is a member of this Council's Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee (for this municipal year that has been County Councillor Tina Clements).

In terms of the work of the Committee during 2019/20 municipal year, this has included:

1. Policy Development and /or Review

This is where the Committee has contributed to the Council's policy development processes and / or where the Committee has considered the implementation of policies and feeding back scrutiny views to Cabinet.

The Committee has reviewed, and (in some cases) made Policy Development recommendations in the following areas:

(a) Housing Allocations Policy

The Committee identified from the Forward Plan that this Policy was an area relevant for the Committee's scrutiny, as a pre-decision item and accordingly requested details prior to the anticipated Council consideration in November 2019.

The Committee received a detailed update from the Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods and members of her team at its October 2019 meeting on the Allocations Policy Review which was underway and the principles which underpinned it. It was reported that the current Allocations Policy had been implemented in 2014/15 and the new Policy was intended (if approved by full Council) to be implemented in June 2020. The Committee received an update on the principles behind the proposed new allocations policy and the outcomes of the consultation process which had been run over the summer period.

(b) Anti-Social Behaviour Policy Update

Members of the Infrastructure Safety & Growth Scrutiny Committee were also invited to attend the Committee for this item.

The Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods updated the Committee on work done in this area since the Council adopted the ASB Policy two years previously and set out how the Council's anti-social behaviour activities fitted in with the Council's vision and purpose and its place based approach, including by building resilient communities and developing and safeguarding our environment and open spaces.

The Assistant Director, Partnerships outlined the Community Safety Plan and its priorities which included anti-social behaviour as well as domestic abuse, protecting the vulnerable in our communities, public place violence and disorder and road safety and the arrangements in place to work with

our partners in this area, in particular with the police, where daily and weekly meetings took place.

The Committee discussed the work underway and sought clarification in various areas including:

- (i) How the plans to invest in neighbourhoods were being rolled out, which it was reported included community engagement through the Tenant Consultative Group (TCG) in order to identify problems and then work on action plans, in partnership with communities.
 - (ii) Issues surrounding problem parking and the reporting of this.
 - (iii) Diversionary strategies and the services which the Council invested in to divert potentially anti-social behaviours into alternative opportunities and the Assistant Director Partnerships reported that a sporting project to divert ASB behaviour had been in place for a year. The communication of relevant projects to members and more widely.
 - (iv) When neighbourhood disputes became anti-social behaviour.
 - (v) The importance of ensuring that the appropriate methods were used for reporting anti-social behaviour so that evidence was recorded contemporaneously.
 - (vi) How Hate crimes were dealt with.
- (c) Priority Service Registers
Following circulation of a report by the Chair to members, the Committee agreed to make a recommendation to Cabinet that Tamworth Borough Council utilise its social media profiles to encourage those eligible, or those who know people who are eligible, to sign up for Public Service Registers across all sectors. Cabinet agreed with the recommendations at its meeting on 17 October 2019.

2. Monitoring (scrutiny)

This is where the Committee has undertaken monitoring of the Council's and external providers performance and progress. In particular the Terms of Reference for this Committee set out the specific areas for scrutiny which include scrutiny of the achievement of the Council's strategic priorities by scrutinising the performance of the Cabinet and external providers in securing a safe environment in which local people can reach their full potential and live longer, healthier lives. To assist in the achievement of this the Committee's remit includes scrutinising matters related to:

- (a) Statutory Health Obligation
- (b) County Council Agreement
- (c) Leisure
- (d) Voluntary Sector
- (e) Non HRA Housing
- (f) Disability Service
- (g) Social Care
- (h) Elderly and Vulnerable People Services

Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee

Over the year 2019/20, there have been regular written and verbal updates provided to the Committee on the scrutiny work of the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee which included:

- (a) In the area of provision for patients with complex care needs and the transforming care partnership work;
- (b) Scrutiny of various hospital trusts providing care to residents of Staffordshire including, University Hospitals North Midlands.
- (c) George Bryan Centre
- (d) The approach in Staffordshire to Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health 2018-2023
- (e) Maternity, Children and Young People Programme item where consideration had been given to the Maternity Transformation Plan
- (f) Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (MPFT) presentation on the work undertaken to change the organisational culture and improve services in all areas.

Staffordshire Observatory Data Pack

The Committee regularly reviewed the Staffordshire Observatory Data Pack for the Tamworth area to identify areas where Tamworth's statistics indicated that improvements could be made.

Consideration of the Forward Plan

At each meeting the Committee receives and considers the Forward Plan to assist in its identification of whether there are any forthcoming key decisions which this Committee determined that it would scrutinise, either pre decision or post decision. Examples of areas which were identified for the Committee's scrutiny as a result of regular Forward Plan consideration were; the Housing Allocations Policy. However, many of the areas identified for scrutiny were not matters which were identified from the Forward Plan.

Safeguarding bi-annual updates

This Committee is updated bi-annually on the safeguarding of children and adults at risk of abuse. The committee meeting is attended by the Portfolio Holder for Regulatory and Community Safety and the Partnership Vulnerability Officer. The first update in this municipal year was at the November 2019 Committee meeting. The second update was due at the April 2020 meeting which was cancelled, although the report was circulated to all members.

The safeguarding updates focussed on:

- Stoke and Staffs Safeguarding Children Board as well as Staffs and Stoke Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board and district partnership subgroups.
- Safeguarding training for staff, taxi driving training, community volunteer groups and Councillors..
- Work streams covering Modern Day Slavery, Domestic Abuse Forum, Domestic Abuse Workplace Champions, Vulnerable Adolescent Multi-agency Panels, Tamworth Vulnerability Partnership, Grant Funding and Suicide Guidance Procedure have also been pursued during the year.

Debt Management and Support

The Committee identified debt management and support as an item which should be considered and invited the Portfolio Holder for Housing Services and Communities and the Assistant Director, Partnerships to attend a meeting. In addition the Committee was attended by the Chief Officer for Citizens Advice Mid Mercia.

The Assistant Director updated the Committee on the corporate approach to managing and supporting residents with problem debt and wider vulnerability, which looked at relevant areas of work by the benefits and council tax teams. The Chief Officer, Citizens Advice Mid Mercia, updated the Committee on the service provided in Tamworth and the areas from which the most queries came and where support and advice was required. In particular the Committee heard that debt, housing and generalist advice was provided and that the demand for this came from a combination of referrals from Tamworth Borough Council and self-referral.

The Committee sought clarification in the following areas:

- (a) The impact seen by Citizen Advice of the end of PPI payouts.
- (b) The extent of support available in terms of avoiding financial scams.
- (c) The Impact of funding for local authorities being withdrawn by DWP associated with Personal Budgeting Support.
- (d) Why Tamworth Borough Council not signed up to the Council Tax Arrears Good Practice Protocol.
- (e) What proportion of Tamworth Borough Council debt went through an enforcement process.

Updates from External bodies

The Committee has also during the year received updates from the following external bodies, with a focus on service delivery in the Tamworth area:

- (a) University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust, including an update on services provided locally from the Sir Robert Peel and Samuel Johnson Hospitals
- (b) Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, which included an update on the George Bryan Centre.
- (c) AccessAble, a not for profit organisation, whose aim was to support organisations to provide more information to more people to overcome the fear of the unknown when visiting new places.

3. Call-in

This is where a decision of the Executive has been called in to be considered by a scrutiny committee, after a Cabinet decision has been made but ahead of it implementation, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

No decisions have been called in to date.

The process for the production and consideration of this Committee's Annual Report, together with the two other Scrutiny Committees' Annual Reports, has been updated. This change was designed to:

- facilitate the production of an annual report which covered the business of the full municipal year (2019/20); and
- ensure that members of the relevant scrutiny committee had an opportunity to comment (by circulation) on the draft Annual Report, before its receipt by full Council.

Accordingly, each scrutiny committee Annual Report is to be received at a full Council meeting in the following municipal year (2020/21).

Working Groups

The Committee agreed to form Task & Finish Groups in the following areas:

- to look into GCSE Attainment in the Borough which comprised:
Councillor Ford
Councillor Faulkner
Councillor Brindley
Councillor Claymore
- To explore the opportunities to raise the awareness of such Priority Service Registers for the benefit of local residents' health and wellbeing.
- To explore options surrounding Tamworth Borough Council owned assets relating to AccessAble – this Group will be led by Councillor P Brindley.

Recommendations made to and Responses received from Cabinet

Scrutiny meeting item	Cabinet Response
Priority Service Registers Recommendations - 19 September 2019 meeting	Recommendations approved at Cabinet meeting on 17 th October 2019.

Committee Terms of Reference

The Committee Terms of Reference are set out in the Constitution and for ease are included at Appendix 1 to this Report.

The Primary Scope, the General Role and the Specific functions detailed in the Constitution have been largely achieved through the Committee's work this year. However, the final meeting of the year was cancelled following full Council's resolutions in the light of the social distancing measures resulting from the Coronavirus pandemic. This meant that second safeguarding update for the year was circulated to members. Items not considered will be retained on the Committee's Work Plan for the next municipal year.

Members and Members Attendance

The following sets out the membership and attendance of members at the 7 Committee meetings during 2019/20.

Member	Number of meetings attended
Richard Ford (Chair)	6
Rosey Claymore (Vice-Chair)	4
Dennis Box	5
Paul Brindley	7
Moira Greatorex	4
Ken Norchi	7
Michael Oates	5
Roy Rogers	6
John Faulkner	4
County Cllr Tina Clements (Staffordshire County Council representative on the Committee)	N/A

Training and Effectiveness

All members were invited to a members briefing session from a representation of the local Clinical Care Commissioning Group on primary care.

The Chair attended a two day Scrutiny training course, aimed at Scrutiny Chairs and vice-Chairs, which was run by the Local Government Association.

Work Plan - Items identified for next municipal year

The existing Committee Work plan is appended as Appendix 2.

Please note that it is expected that the activities of the Committee may be impacted by the ongoing COVID19 pandemic. This is expected to result from the fact that the committee meetings will be held remotely for at least part of this municipal year, and in order to ensure that there is a tight focus on business critical items at this time.

Resource Implications

None identified.

Report Author

Councillor R Ford
Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Article 6 of the Constitution – Scrutiny committee Terms of Reference
Appendix 2 – Committee’s Work Plan

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