

HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND INCLUSION SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL	Agenda Item No. 8b.
DATE: 20 June 2006	
CURRENT POSITION OF PANEL AND PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2006/07	
Ward(s)	All
Portfolios: Social care, health and housing - Councillor Paul	
Summary of report: The report summarises the current position of the work of the panel, its sub-committee and working groups during the 2005/06 municipal year. Further it outlines the process recommended for identifying and prioritising items for scrutiny in 2006/7.	
Background papers: None	
Reason for scrutiny: To agree a work programme for the panel for the 2006/07 municipal year.	
Signed:
Executive Director:	David Martin
Date:	

<p>Resource and legal considerations:</p> <p>In accordance with the constitution the panel may ask persons to attend to address them on matters under consideration and may pay to any advisors, assessors and other persons a reasonable fee and expenses for doing so.</p>
<p>Citizen impact:</p> <p>All citizens with a relevant interest in a matter will have the ability to contribute to the deliberations of a scrutiny and performance panel.</p>
<p>Environmental impact:</p> <p>Successful overview and scrutiny can assist in shaping policy to make environmental improvements.</p>
<p>Performance management:</p> <p>Scrutiny is an important and integral part of the council's performance management framework and can challenge review and advise on service delivery, council activity and policy and improvements.</p>
<p>Equality Implications:</p> <p>All citizens with a relevant interest in a matter will have the ability to contribute to the deliberations of a scrutiny and performance panel.</p>
<p>Consultation:</p> <p>Consultation with panel members will be required regarding their views on specific issues to be considered for scrutiny.</p>
<p>Vision 2008:</p> <p>Identification of issues for scrutiny is aimed at achieving the council's vision.</p>
<p>Contact Officer:</p> <p>Nikki Ehlen Scrutiny Officer Tel. 01922 652080 Ehlenn@walsall.gov.uk</p>

1. Revised Remit of Panel

- 1.1 Council at its meeting on 24 April 2006 agreed as part of the review of the council's constitution to include the remit and terms of reference of each SPP so that members and citizens can have in one location all the relevant information for each panel. The revised remits align the work of each panel with that of the directorates. The names of some of the panels have also been changed to reflect the title of the appropriate directorate. This panel is now known as Health Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny and Performance Panel.
- 1.2 The revised remits whilst removing some of the work streams from panels on which scrutiny has already commenced, have nevertheless led to a more balanced workload for each panel and have also brought across work streams from other Scrutiny and Performance Panels.
- 1.3 The revised remits for this panel is attached (**appendix1**) to assist members in scoping the work programme for 2006/7.

2. Scoping Criteria

- 2.1 In line with the revised remits members are encouraged to use the selection criteria attached (**appendix 2**) to ensure that potential scrutiny items are given fair and consistent consideration against a framework that highlights and focuses the reason for scrutiny.
- 2.2 Members have in the past agreed that the selection of what to scrutinise aided the development of a robust focussed work programme and was the key to ensuring scrutiny was successful. By applying the selection criteria, the panel are therefore actively taking action aimed at ensuring efficient and effective scrutiny.

3 Using the selection criteria

- 3.1 The criteria for selection (appendix 2) have been developed to explain the reasoning behind each criterion. When assessing a potential scrutiny item, each match against the criteria scores 1. The sum of the scores for matching criteria gives *Score A*.
- 3.2 Consideration should now be given to how achievable it would be to complete the work within the municipal year. It is recognised that some work streams are too large to be completed in year one and, therefore, the panel should consider whether work stream can be sub-divided or re-scoped. By completing the work programme within the municipal year, any possible changes to the panel membership are less likely to affect the outcome of scrutiny. A score for achievability is *Score B*.
- 3.3 The importance of the potential scrutiny item to delivering the Council's Vision and achieving excellence by 2008, provides *Score C*.
- 3.4 Multiplying *Scores A, B and C* provides the overall score for the particular potential scrutiny item.

4 Background

- 4.1 The 2001 Act formally enabled authorities with responsibility for social services to review and scrutinise health service matters, and to make reports and recommendations to NHS bodies.
- 4.2 Under the legislation, health scrutiny committees have powers to summon officers of health trusts to committee meetings, to require information from NHS bodies on the planning and provision of health services, and must be consulted by health trusts about significant changes to service provision. They can initiate their own reviews of any topic that affects the health and well-being of local residents. They can also refer contested NHS proposals to the Secretary of State on the grounds of either process or merit. NHS bodies are under a duty to respond to committee reports and recommendations, but are not bound to accept recommendations. Health scrutiny committees do not, however, have rights of access to NHS premises. Finally, health scrutiny committees may delegate their powers and undertake joint work with committees from adjacent local areas, promoting joint-policy integration and development of local health strategies.

5. Work Programme 2005/06

- 5.1 During the first meeting of 2005/06 municipal year the panel established its work programme. The key issues which had been identified for inclusion into the work programme for the year are as follows: -

Items	Comments
Community Meals (commenced March 2005)	Following input and discussion by the panel in March 2005 the panel considered reports summarising proposals and work completed on the community meals project. Information was received from stakeholders, which included trade unions. The group were assured by many aspects of the proposed tender specification and expressed support for an in-house bid. Cabinet endorsed the panel's recommendation of daily hot, as well as frozen meals. The panel supported further involvement as the procurement process progresses.
Redesign and re-provision of older peoples services	A review of the procurement process for the redesign of older people's services has recently commenced and the panel has received evidence from stakeholders. The panel will be reviewing the progress of the project at its next stage of development when a report is received in September 2006 to identify the preferred bidder and the options for the service.
CPA housing improvement plan	The joint working group with Regeneration, Environment, Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel continued its review of the improvement plan. Members also received information on action taken to improve housing services such as mystery shopping by specially trained tenants. It was recognised that as the

	original remit for the group was to monitor progress of the plan up to and immediately beyond an inspection, the remit of the group had been fulfilled. Following a request from the working group the panel agreed to disband this working group.
Modernising Services Working Group Assessment of Day Care Services for People with Learning Disabilities Independent Living Centres	<p>The panel established a modernising services working group to scrutinise the progress of learning disability services following the completion of the review document on day care services. An “easy read” version of the review document was submitted to the Learning Disability Partnership Board. The working group also established that a modernisation plan for the learning disability service would be available in April 2006. If re-established the working group will continue to monitor the progress of the service.</p> <p>The modernising services working group has recently been reviewing the provision of an independent living centre in the borough. Having visited a beacon service in Sandwell and expressing support for a similar service in Walsall, the work group supported the arrangements for a similar service to be provided at Tameway Tower building in Walsall and is continuing to monitor its development. The modernising services working group also received information on redesign of older peoples services and development of integrated services.</p>

Additions to Work Programme 2005/6

During the year the panel added the following issues to the programme: -

1)Performance monitoring and financial monitoring information	<p>In terms of oversight of key performance data and financial monitoring the panel has had detailed insight into the issues facing the directorate and has had opportunities to receive information, listen to presentations from officers, consider plans for improvements and to ask questions and to ask questions and request additional information as part of their role as a critical friend.</p> <p>Performance data has been considered in detail in detail at meetings on 21 June 2004, 21 September 2005</p> <p>Financial monitoring information has been considered in</p>
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	detail at meetings on 21 September 2005, 29 November 2005, and 26 January 2006.
Other strategic issues	<p>The panel received information and submitted views on a number of other strategic issues including national consultation documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adult social care services – delivery and improvement statements • independence, well-being and choice – consultation on green paper • financial and performance monitoring position of social care • budget update 2006/07 • review of fairer charging policy
2) Draft Capital Programme and Draft Corporate Revenue Budget 2006/07 – 2010/11	The panel were updated on the corporate position, received information on the corporate revenue budget and had the opportunity to make recommendations to Cabinet.

6. Items for consideration for the 2006/07 work programme

6.1 Summarised below are work streams which have commenced but have not yet been completed. The panel may wish to include them into the work programme for 2006/07.

Items	Comments
Modernising Services Working group	
Independent Living centre	Following involvement in discussions about the development of an independent living centre in the borough, the centre is due to open May 2006. Members may wish to continue to monitor the progress as part of this years work programme.
Review of learning disability services	Following the production of a review document the modernising working group agreed it would continue to monitor the progress of the service at quarterly intervals
Monitoring Performance	This is an important area of work which all Scrutiny and Performance Panels should consider adding to the work programme. Panels should however give priority to those issues which have an effect on and adds value to the services of the council. Members will therefore need

	to consider how; when and what will be reviewed.
Budget consultation	Council has identified 22 November 2006 and 25 January 2007 as dates for budget consultation meetings.
Consultation	<p>Members of the Community Organisation, Leisure and Culture Scrutiny Panel had agreed that consultation affected all the services and elements of the panel's workload and that it should be included as an integral element of the review process when looking at subjects to be scrutinised within the panel's remit.</p> <p>Corporate consultation however now falls within the Health Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny and Performance Panel's remit as part of the workload of the policy unit. Any issues raised within this work stream will be considered by the Health Social Care and Inclusion panel.</p>
Citizens Panel	<p>Members of the Community Organisation, Leisure and Culture Scrutiny Panel undertook a review of the process of establishing a citizens panel in Walsall and were satisfied with it. During the review members were also able to influence the preparation of the surveys in relation to leisure and culture services.</p> <p>Corporate support, of which the policy unit is a key element, no longer, falls within the Community Organisation, Leisure and Culture Panel's remit. This area of work now falls within the remit of the Health Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny Panel.</p>
Funding of Voluntary/Community Organisations	<p>Members of the Community Organisation, Leisure and Culture Scrutiny Panel had received a presentation from the portfolio holder on the process for grant applications. The panel reviewed this process during a number of special workshops and made a number of suggested changes to the process, in particular, creating 3 categories of applications; a revision of the criteria for successful applications; suggested ring-fenced budgets for each category of application and creation of a timetable for decision making during the 2006/7 application period.</p> <p>The panel had agreed to invite to its first meeting of this municipal year representatives from community organisations such as CAB in order to assess the needs of such larger organisations and therefore make a better judgement of their financial needs.</p> <p>This area of work however, falls within the policy unit which is now within the remit of the Health and Social</p>

	Care and Inclusion Scrutiny and Performance Panel.
<p>Health Scrutiny</p> <p>Access to Mental Health Services (commenced Sept 2003).</p> <p>Obesity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing infant mortality • Increasing life expectancy • Increasing breast feeding • Increasing access to breast and cervical screening 	<p>The panel worked in partnership with the NHS throughout the scrutiny of this service. It completed its first formal review in the 2005/06 municipal year, following this; an action plan was drawn up in response to the issues the review highlighted.</p> <p>The scrutiny on obesity has been conducted via a joint work group with Children's Services & Lifelong Learning Scrutiny and Performance Panel. This has been concluded and referred back to the Children's Services & Lifelong Learning Scrutiny and Performance Panel. The panel decided to consider obesity in adults in the workplace as the next task of obesity working group, which means that a joint work group is no longer required.</p> <p>  The panel has programmed these areas of scrutiny into its work plan for the future. </p> <p>Members may wish to re-establish the Health Scrutiny Panel and its working groups to allow these areas to be included into the work programme for 2006/07. (See separate report requesting the establishment of the health scrutiny panel)</p>

7. Conclusion

The panel will need to agree to note the information set out in this report and agree a work programme for the municipal year 2006/07 based on the remit of the panel set out in appendix 1. Members may also wish to utilise the selection criteria attached at appendix 2 to ensure that potential scrutiny items are given fair and consistent consideration.

Appendix 1

HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE and INCLUSION SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL	
Scrutiny Panel Remit	Directorate
Chair: Councillor Oliver Vice Chair: Councillor D Pitt Scrutiny officer: Nikki Ehlen	Executive Director: David Martin ☎2700 Cabinet Portfolios: Social care and health Housing.
<p style="text-align: center;">Adult Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with learning disabilities • People with physical disabilities/ sensory impairment • Older people • People with mental health problems <p style="text-align: center;">Strategic Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness and Housing Advice • Gypsies and Travellers • Supporting People • Aids and adaptations • Renovation grants • Access to housing • Private sector housing • Domestic energy efficiency • Housing Strategy and Partnerships <p style="text-align: center;">Corporate Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equalities • Policy • Emergency Planning <p style="text-align: center;">Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tPCT 	<p>Comments / explanations</p>

Scoping of Work Programme - Criteria for Selection

Appendix 2

No.	Criteria	Reasoning behind criteria	Explanation of Criteria
1	Issue identified by councillors as a key issue for public scrutiny	Issue which adversely affects public services and possibly a matter which will restrict achievement of council's vision.	Councillors have received feedback via LNPs; Member surgeries; personal experience. Issue identified is one which affects local service not being provided or is felt to be ineffective.
2	Issue raised by internal / external audit	Essential to review to achieve effective resolution to concerns raised	Audit investigation identifies a problem in service / behaviour, etc...
3	General public dissatisfaction with service	Complaints received, likely to restrict achievement of vision and CPA rating of service	General public have expressed their dissatisfaction with service and require its improvement
4	Issue raised as important by the Council's partners (i.e. LNP, CEN, WBSP, NHS)	Review likely to strengthen joint working with our partners to deliver the overall community strategy for the Borough.	Council's partners have identified areas or services which are in need of joint attention.
5	Performance indicators and benchmarking has identified service as a poor performing one or where performance has radically declined or improved	Opportunity to review service and improve CPA rating, and learn from and share experience	Performance reviews of current service and investigations of similar services produced elsewhere have identified the need to improve the service we provide.
6	Service has shown pattern of budgetary overspend / under spend	Need to ensure resources are being placed behind clear priorities.	Budget allocation for the service has been exceeded on number of occasions
7	Issue has high risk impact on equality / health and safety	Allows focus on issues that matter to citizens by way of informing policy	Quality of Service \ Policy in question could impinge on level of provision
8	Local media has highlighted issue	Matter of public concern	Media – newspapers, radio. Have created wide public interest in issue.
9	Issue is a central Government priority area and therefore affected by government guidance or legislation	Essential for council to seek local views through public consultation and using its telescopic eye to scrutinise the governments proposals and establish possible joint working with other councils	Issue has been identified via consultation document seeking views of local authority on proposals
10	Issue is critical to securing a successful CPA outcome.	Necessity to review service and steer CPA assessment to a positive result	CPA has graded service to a particular level, which is against the aim set by the authority

No.	Criteria	Reasoning behind criteria	Explanation of Criteria
11	Issue is subject to modernisation / change or is a new area of work to the Council and its' partners	Method of cementing councils duty to review change, particularly for services in health service	Health Service Partner, Government, Executive seek to change service
12	Issue is identified in the Forward Plan for Cabinet decision and identified from list of items to be decided by officer with delegated authority	Opportunity for Panel to review and contribute to discussion making process, policy making and affect CPA rating.	Executive / Officer Forward plan sets out items earmarked for future decisions.

Note:

1. Issues which can be resolved without scrutiny panels intervention and are part of a performance review within the previous or next 12 months need not be scrutinised. Issues which are being scrutinised elsewhere can be reviewed on a joint basis if appropriate.
2. Full consideration should be given to planning timescales for each review identified on the work programme. Timescales play a crucial role in the reviews life cycle; it avoids bottle necks and delays. A project management process known as a "Milestone Calendar" can be adopted. It identifies key stages in the project/review and with the aid of times from the planning process and completion date from the terms of reference; the times by which they are to complete are listed.

Set out below is an example of such a process.

Milestone Calendar

Review: Teenage Pregnancy rates in Walsall.

Milestone	Completion Date
Identify issue for scrutiny	July 2006
Scope review / identify leaders/ process / visits/ witnesses / resources etc	August 2006
In depth Scrutiny / identify problems and solutions	September 2006
Commence planning of review document	January 2007
Complete review document	February 2007
Submit review document to parent body	March 2007

Scoping of Work Programme - Criteria for Selection Prioritising and Weighting

No.	Criteria	Score
1	Issue identified by councillors as a key issue for public scrutiny	
2	Issue raised by internal / external audit	
3	General public dissatisfaction with service	
4	Issue raised as important by the Council's partners (i.e. LNP, CEN, WBSP, NHS)	
5	Performance indicators and benchmarking has identified service as a poor performing one or where performance has radically declined or improved	
6	Service has shown pattern of budgetary overspend / under spend	
7	Issue has high risk impact on equality / health and safety	
8	Local media has highlighted issue	
9	Issue is a central Government priority area and therefore affected by government guidance or legislation	
10	Issue is critical to securing a successful CPA outcome.	
11	Issue is subject to modernisation / change or is a new area of work to the Council and its' partners	
12	Issue is identified in the Forward Plan for Cabinet decision and identified from list of items to be decided by officer with delegated authority	
Score A		

	Weighting factor	
Achievability of review within 12 months	3 Achievable 2 Marginal 1 Unachievable 0 Not Applicable	
Score B		

	Weighting factor	
Impact on Council's Vision	5 Achieves vision 4 High impact 3 Neutral impact 2 Minimum impact 1 Little or no impact	
Score C		

Total	Score A x Score B x Score C	=	
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