

**Health Social Care and Inclusion
Scrutiny and Performance Panel**

**Agenda
Item No.**

DATE: 5 June, 2008

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Consideration of Panel Work Programme for 2008/09

Ward(s) All

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Barbara McCracken – Social Care, Health and Housing

Summary of report:

The purpose of this report is to provide relevant background information for Members so that the Panels work programme can be agreed for 2008/09.

It is important for Members to consider the wide range of potential issues within their remits that they could consider during the year which could range from council specific to completely external issues.

When agreeing items it is important that consideration is given to what, if any, performance measures and assessment tools can be utilised to assist Members in completing their work.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. That Member's consider the range of items within their remit available to them and agree a work programme for 2008/09 along with any potential working groups;**
- 2. That Member's agree whether to delegate Health scrutiny powers to a sub-committee or complete this work as part of the main work programme**

Background papers:

Scrutiny Annual Report 2007/08
Minutes of previous meetings

Resource and legal considerations:

In terms of resources it is important that the right balance and number of items and working groups are selected so that the work programme can be completed during the year without placing undue pressure on Member capacity.

Legal considerations for specific items will need to be addressed as and when necessary based on the items that are selected for inclusion on the work programme.

Citizen impact:

An effective work programme will enable the Panel to focus its work on the most important issues within its remit. Consideration of these issues and subsequent recommendations, if accepted, could improve the quality of services delivered to local residents.

Environmental impact:

The level of environmental impact will be dependant on which issues are selected to become a part of the panels work programme for 2008/09. The boroughs Sustainable Community Strategy places an importance on considering the impact of present decisions on future generations which includes environmental issues.

Performance management:

The report asks Members to consider performance management information when deciding on their work programme, and also to consider how they wish to use performance management information and tools in assisting them with their work over the course of the year.

Equality Implications:

Ensuring equality for all is a key theme in the boroughs Sustainable Community Strategy and new Local Area Agreement. As with performance management information consideration of equality issues could form apart of the Panels work programme for 2008/09.

Consultation:

Members may wish to consider the results of any formal or informal consultation exercises, including that with the public and partners, when considering what items they wish to include in their work programme.

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Introduction

At the start of each municipal year it is good practice for scrutiny and performance panels to spend some time discussing and agreeing its work programme for the year ahead for issues within its remit.

As Members will already be aware scrutiny and performance panel remits were amended by Council at its meeting on 21 May 2008. For information the Panels remit in Article 6 of the Walsall Council Constitution now reads as:

Health, Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny and Performance Panel

All aspects and general services related to social care and inclusion for example; adult services, strategic housing together and health service matters as conferred under the Health and Social Care Act 2001 within the functions set out in section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000.

In agreeing its work programme for 2008/09 the Panel will be informed from a range of sources, including all 60 Members, last years Panel work streams and suggested carry over items , Council Officers, Partners and the Public.

When agreeing the items to be included in its work programme focus should be given to the range of performance management information available that could assist the Panel with each particular issue. A whole host of performance information is available on a range of subjects that Members could utilise to measure success or otherwise.

Health Scrutiny powers

The Local Government Act of 2000 and the Health and Social Care Act 2001, places obligations on local overview and scrutiny committees to scrutinise Health services, and on NHS bodies to provide information, answer questions and respond to recommendations. This responsibility is included within the remit of the Health, Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny and Performance Panel.

In previous years this panel has opted to delegate Health scrutiny powers to a politically balanced sub-committee from the membership of the 'parent' panel. The panel should decide whether they wish to do this again for this year or retain the powers for the main panel.

If the Panel wishes to reform the sub-committee then a decision needs to be made regarding its membership and reporting arrangements etc.

Suggested Items

The items recommended for potential inclusion on the 2008/09 work programme are as follows:

Social Care and Housing:

- Hollybank House
- Merger of Young Adults and Disabilities Service
- CSCI Action Plan
- Supporting People improvement towards excellence plan
- Disability Facility Grants
- Temporary Accommodation Reduction Plan
- Local Involvement Networks
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)

Health:

- Change in role of the Primary Care Trust
- Change in status of the Manor Hospital
- Arms-length Provider Organisation (APrO)
- Development of an urgent care model

Standing items:

- Regular financial and performance monitoring information

Working Groups:

The Panel need to decide what working groups they need to run this year; three items have been suggested as areas where a working group could add value:

- Personalisation Agenda
- Affordable Housing
- Obesity

Personalisation Agenda

This is a new topic which has been suggested as an area where a working group could add value by looking at how Walsall is equipping itself to meet the national agenda and how this might impact on Walsall residents.

Affordable Housing

This was a working group from last year, run jointly with the Regeneration Panel. Membership included: Councillor's Oliver, Coughlan, D Pitt and Cllr I Shires.

The purpose of this group was to research the current situation of demand, access and affordability of housing and to analyse and make recommendations on the housing issues within the context of the regeneration of the borough.

It is suggested that once this work group reaches its conclusion that it continues to meet to discuss the review of Walsall Housing Group.

Obesity

This was a working group of the Health Sub-Panel, which members have requested is carried over into this year. Membership included: Councillor's Woodruff, Robertson and Paul.

There is a rising prevalence of obesity in England, with over 50% of adults being overweight, and Walsall has some of the worst obesity levels in the West Midlands. The health scrutiny panel considered it important to consider obesity in adults. This could have detrimental effects on the health of Walsall residents, as obesity can create the risk of serious illnesses e.g. diabetes, CHD. This working group aims to encourage Walsall Council, and NHS to set the example as leading employers.

- The completion of a document which can be used as a tool by the health scrutiny panel to assist public sector employers in Walsall to create opportunities to reduce obesity levels in their work force.
- To analyse and make recommendations to Cabinet/Council on tackling the issue of adulthood obesity within Walsall.
- To assist Walsall's target of stopping the increase of incidence of obesity by 2010.

Members need to decide whether these items need to be run as working groups for this year, or to be included in the main stream work programme. If they are to be run as working groups then membership will need to be agreed.

It is important that Member capacity is considered when deciding on what working groups are formed as many members sit on more than one panel and their respective working groups. As such getting suitable dates in the municipal diary and getting suitable attendance at those meetings is difficult if too many working groups are formed. Experience has shown that two working groups per Panel with a membership of 4-5 Members is a realistic and achievable commitment.

Forward Plan

The following items are currently on the Cabinet Forward Plan for consideration by Cabinet at some point prior to September this year. The Panel may wish to consider if it appropriate for them to look at any of these items themselves either before or after Cabinet meets.

Issue	Portfolio Holder	Date to be considered by Cabinet
Review of transport policy with a view to meeting savings targets	Cllr McCracken	18 June 2008
Communities for Health Funding- to agree a programme of work funded by the Department of Health over two year	Cllr McCracken	18 June 2008
Hollybank House reprovion	Cllr McCracken	18 June 2008
Amendment to the fairer charging policy for non-residential care	Cllr McCracken	16 July 2008
Approval of the charging scheme for extra care housing	Cllr McCracken	16 July 2008

Further Information

Officers will deliver a presentation on the night to provide more detail on these issues. If the panel decides to undertake a service review as part of its work programme then they should consider use of the Value for Money toolkit, which was developed specifically for this purpose and was piloted with the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Panel, with the work they did on the Revenues and Benefits Service. This tool has received positive feedback from external inspectors, including the value for money assessment by the Audit Commission.