

29 August 2019

Feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committees

Portfolios: All

Wards: All

1. Summary of report

This report provides a short summary of the activity of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

2. Recommendation

That, subject to any comments Members may wish to make, the feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committees be noted.

3. Report

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

At its meeting on 25th June 2019 the Children's Services OSC received a presentation from Officers on the structure of the service area, areas covered by Children's Services Scrutiny, and potential issues that scrutiny may wish to consider. The Chair asked all Members of the Committee to select 5 priority areas for scrutiny and to communicate these via email to assist the Chair in formulating a work programme for the committee for the coming municipal year.

Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee

At its meeting on 18 June 2019, the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a presentation from officers on the areas of focus for 2019/20. This included:

- Walsall Right for Children Vision
- Information on schools in Walsall
- Information on children living in Walsall
- Brief profile of children with SEN in Walsall
- Key issues relating to educational provision in Walsall
- Items for consideration for the Committee's work programme

The Committee selecting its areas of focus for inclusion in the 2019/20 work programme and agreed to establish a working group on Access and inclusion.

Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Committee met on 20 June 2019 and considered a pre-audit outturn report and its areas of focus.

With regard to the pre-audit outturn Members were informed of overspends with the Tarmac contract and further information was requested on Open Plus Libraries and public realm improvements.

Areas of Focus – 2019/20

The Committee received an overview of the Economy and Environment Service Area from the Executive Director, Simon Neilson. A discussion took place on the areas of focus for 2019/20 and the following items were included on the Work Programme:-

- a. Rail Improvement in Walsall;
- b. Town Centre Masterplan
- c. The Council's Waste Strategy;
- d. Employment, Growth and Skills;
- e. District Town Centres Update;
- f. Air Quality Update;
- g. Open Plus in Libraries Update.

The Committee established an Unauthorised Encampments Working Group to:

- I. Review the Gypsy and Travellers Needs Assessments;
- II. Understand challenges facing the Council when dealing with UEs;
- III. Understanding Gypsy and Travellers equality implications and the 'Walsall for All' Strategy;
- IV. Explore the development of integrated strategy to enable Walsall to fulfil its equality duty to assist in the management of UEs and to reduce health, social and economic inequalities in vulnerable groups.

Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

At the Social Care and Health Scrutiny Overview Committee on 27th June 2019, the Committee received a report from officers on the areas of focus for 2019/20. The Committee discussed the themes as suggested by the Chair and agreed the work programme that it would like considered under these. The following themes (and work programme items) were agreed as priorities for the committee for the 2019/20 municipal year:

- **Wellbeing**
 - Future of domestic violence services
 - Aids and adaptations to assist independent living
- **Finance**
 - Detail of financial allocations and timescales attached to the NHS 10 year plan
 - The use of the Better Care Fund and how efficiencies were achieved
 - -Budget consultation
- **Access to Primary Care**

- An update on Primary Care Networks
- Geographic access to primary care
- **Partnerships/ healthcare integration**
 - The governance of Walsall Together Alliance
- **Mental health**
 - Dudley and Walsall mental Health Trust and Black Country Partnership Trust 'case for change' business case
 - Services available, waiting lists and funding.
 - Also GP training and support to GPs from the CCG
 - CAMHS
 - Care and support for those individuals living with autism
- **Hospital Services and Community Care**
 - Performance of stroke rehabilitation services
 - Use of agency staff in care homes, and hospital.
- **Public Health**

A Mental Health Working Group has been also established.

Authors:

Craig Goodall
 Senior Democratic Services Officer
 ☎ 01922 654765
 ✉ Craig.Goodall@walsall.gov.uk

Paul Fantom
 Democratic Services Officer
 ☎ 01922 653484
 ✉ Paul.Fantom@walsall.gov.uk

Nikki Gough
 Democratic Services Officer
 ☎ 01922 654767
 ✉ Nikki.Gough@walsall.gov.uk

Matt Powis
 Democratic Services Officer
 ☎ 01922 654764
 ✉ Matthew.Powis@walsall.gov.uk