



Health and Social Care Scrutiny and Performance Panel (update)

The work plan for the year was broadly

Working groups – to establish two working groups
Modernising Services with an initial focus on older peoples services
Housing CPA Action Plan with an initial focus on physical disability issues / DFG

That the forward plan be considered at each meeting

That there should be regular performance monitoring

That the Health Scrutiny Panel continues with terms of reference as agreed

Health and Social Care Scrutiny and Performance Panel – key activities and outcomes

Performance and Financial Monitoring

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 presentation from officers, consider plans for improvements and to ask questions and request additional information as part of their role as a critical friend. Members have been kept up to date with the inspection framework for the directorate and emerging issues. Members have also been kept up to date with forecasts of budget outturn and were consulted about the departmental budget.

Performance data has been considered in detail at meetings on 21 July 2004, 15 September 2004, 25 October 2004 and 24 January 2005.

Financial monitoring information has been considered in detail at meeting on 15 September 2004 and 24 January 2005

Key resolutions included those from the budget consultations.

Draft Corporate Revenue Budget 2005/6 – 2009/10

Resolved

The panel bring the following issues to the attention of cabinet:

1. The panel repeated their view that

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- a. the anti poverty unit should not be included in the scope of the Putting the Citizen First Partnership.
 - b. That the management responsibility and accountability of the Anti-Poverty Unit be transferred from the Resources Directorate to the Health and Social Care Directorate.
2. There were concerns about the level of funding allocated to the Anti-Poverty Unit and that this funding was from the supporting people grant and not from mainstream funding. It was further agreed that confirmation would be given by officers as to mainstream allocations in this current year's budget.

Draft Capital Programme 2005/6 – 2009/10

Resolved

The panel bring the following issues to the attention of cabinet:

1. The additional capital funding for aids and adaptations and disabled facilities was welcomed and questions were raised as to the capacity of the service to complete the increase and backlog of work of 250%.

Social Care and Supported Housing Estimated Draft Forecast 2005/6 and Draft Preliminary Forecasts 2006/7 to 2009/10

Resolved

The panel make the following comments to cabinet:

1. There were concerns that plans to manage vacancies and reduce agency costs should not affect service delivery.
2. There were concerns that the externalisation of Supported Workshops should not affect clients and employees of that service that appear in the budget papers as a saving of £350,000 in future years
3. Questions were raised as to whether projected savings in looked after children were realistic, having been projected and missed in previous years.

Call in

The panel did not consider any call in relating to the Health and Social Care Directorate. However, on 6 December the panel did consider a report of the Community, Leisure and Culture Scrutiny and Performance Panel that had called in a decision relating to the Putting the Citizen First Partnership. A number of recommendations were made to cabinet who subsequently confirmed their original decision.

Health Scrutiny Panel – key activities and outcomes

The panel has met four times. It has chosen to focus its activities on the Walsall Health Equity Audit and spent time considering what areas to concentrate on and has chosen obesity as its theme.

Its key activities have been scoping a review of obesity in Walsall following consideration of evidence from a variety of sources. A joint review has now been agreed with Childrens Services Scrutiny and Performance Panel and some resources have been identified to help further with the analysis of local information.

The Panel has continued to be involved in Regional Health Scrutiny matters and the Chair attends regular meeting around the area and Walsall has hosted a meeting.

The Panel has considered, in detail, information relating to the PFI project for Manor Hospital including a site visit.

The Panel is also bringing to an end a major review on Access to Mental Health Services in Walsall and has received a report from the Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health. Following a period of consultation it is expected that the Health Panel will make a number of recommendation to improve local services.

Also sought to understand the roles of key individuals in local NHS structures and has received presentations from Sue James Chief Executive of Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust and the lead officer for Patient and Public Involvement to this end.

Modernising Services Workgroup – key activities and outcomes

Terms of Reference

1. To scrutinise all matters relating to the modernisation and redesign of services.
2. To scrutinise the impact of the modernisation of services on outcomes for service users and on the delivery of performance indicators and targets.
3. To review and scrutinise the development of partnership working in the delivery of service redesign and modernisation.
4. To encourage the council as a whole, its executive and other Scrutiny Committees to take into account the implications of their policies and activities on the delivery of modernised services that promote social inclusion.
5. To evaluate and review the effectiveness of service modernisation.
6. To seek and take into account the views of vulnerable adults and the local population

Walsall MBC Health and Social Care Scrutiny and Performance Panel

7. To inform Health and Social Care Scrutiny and Performance Scrutiny Panel of its ongoing work programme.

The working group has met three times.

Members have received detailed information from officers on Modernising Day Care Services, Older Peoples Services and Assessment and Care Management Services and have agreed a work programme of activities. They will concentrate on Modernising Day Care Services in the first instance and move on to plans for an Independent Living Centre in Walsall

Key activities have included an event for carers where their views were sought on the Modernising of Day Care Services and another similar event is planned for service users.

Recommendations include

- that officers from Health and Social Care make a formal approach to the Urban Regeneration Company regarding future plans for inclusion of social elements on the Waterfront site.
- that a visit to the Sandwell Independent Living Centre be arranged for the end of April 2005.

Work is progressing and will continue into the next municipal year.

CPA Housing Improvement Plan Working Group – key activities and outcomes

Terms of Reference

1. To scrutinise all matters relating to the delivery of the CPA Housing Improvement Plan and the Re-inspection of Housing Services.
2. To scrutinise the impact of the delivery of the CPA Improvement Plan and Re-inspection of services on outcomes for service users and on the delivery of performance indicators and targets.
3. To review and scrutinise the development of partnership working in the delivery of the Improvement Plan.
4. To encourage the council as a whole, its executive and other Scrutiny Committees to take into account the implications of their policies and activities on the delivery of housing services that promote social inclusion.
5. To evaluate and review the effectiveness of the Improvement Plan.
6. To seek and take into account the views of vulnerable adults and other customers of the housing service.
8. To inform Health and Social Care Scrutiny and Performance Scrutiny Panel of its ongoing work programme .

The working group has met three times.

Key activities have been

1. Monitoring of the CPA Housing Improvement Plan
2. Members have been tasked to independently research three areas of interest

Access to Housing Services
Information Available to Local People
DFG/OT issues

Information has also been provided on key performance and financial data relating to homelessness and DFG/OT issues by officers in responses to requests from members.

Key recommendations include

Involvement of members in mystery shopping activities in relation to the improvement plan
Arranging member awareness sessions around the choose and move scheme to help members fulfil their role as community leaders.
Inviting evidence from key stakeholders to further inform members

Work is progressing and will continue into the next financial year.