

HEALTH SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

**Agenda
Item No.**

DATE: 4 July, 2006

**CURRENT POSITION OF PANEL AND PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME FOR
2006/7**

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 and its working groups during the 2005/6 municipal year and sets out a proposed work programme for 2006/7 municipal year.

Background papers:

None

Reason for scrutiny:

To agree a work programme for the panel for the 2006/07 municipal year.

Executive Director: **Carole Evans**

Resource and legal considerations:

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.

Citizen impact:

All Citizens with a relevant interest in a matter will have the ability to contribute to the deliberations of a Scrutiny and Performance Panel (SPP)

Environmental impact:

Successful scrutiny can assist in shaping policy to make environmental improvements.

Performance management:

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 in order to improve performance.

Equality Implications:

All Citizens with a relevant interest in a matter will have the ability to contribute to the deliberations of a Scrutiny and Performance Panel.

Consultation:

Consultation with panel members will be required regarding their views on specific issues to be considered for scrutiny.

Vision 2008:

Identification of issues for scrutiny is aimed at achieving the council's vision.

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1. The Health Scrutiny Panel

- 1.2 The health and social care scrutiny and performance panel in commencing its deliberations for the 2005/6 municipal year scoped its work programme and re-establishing its health sub-committee.
- 1.3 The health scrutiny panel was re-established with full delegated powers to scrutinise the local health service. It scoped its own work programme and commenced consideration of issues from it. The health panel was unable to keep to its programme due to a number of national consultations which sought the views of health panels around the country.

2. Work Programme 2005/6

- 2.1 During the first meeting of 2005/6 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
Review of accessibility to Mental Health Services	The major review of access to mental health services which had commenced during the 2004/5 municipal year was concluded with the preparation of a review document setting out the panel's findings. An action plan was drawn up in collaboration with the tPCT to attempt to resolve some of the problems identified by the review. A number of those problems have now been addressed and the tPCT are working with this panel to continue to monitor those issues still outstanding. The review document and action plan is seen as a working document towards that end.
Obesity	<p>The joint obesity working group was re-established with representatives from the children's services and lifelong learning scrutiny panel to conclude its review of childhood obesity. A workshop took place in June 2005 which involved key stakeholders such as health workers, councillors, parents and teachers. Information needed to evaluate the best way forward to resolve the problems of childhood obesity in Walsall and to prepare an action plan was collected.</p> <p>The health panel was of the view that the findings should be referred to the children's panel to enable that panel to formulate a view and refer the findings to cabinet for appropriate action in conjunction with the tPCT.</p>

2.2 Additions to Work Programme 2005/6

The consultation documents set out below were also considered by the health scrutiny panel and the panel's views were submitted to the tPCT and the Strategic Health Authority as appropriate

1	Palliative Care Strategy for Walsall
2	Commissioning a patient led NHS
3	Improving older people services – Goscote Hospital
4	A framework for patient and public involvement within Walsall
5	Health Care Commission Annual Health Check
6	Developing a medium secure mental health services for men in the West Midlands.
7	Configuration of SHA; PCTs and Ambulance Service
8	Director of public health annual report
9	Future configuration of mental health services in the Black Country

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

Time limited scrutiny panel	Council in July 2005 established a time limited scrutiny panel to receive information on the proposals for the future delivery of hospital services in the borough. The Strategic Health Authority reviewed and amended initial proposals, this resulted in the council deciding that there was no longer a role for the time limited panel which was subsequently disbanded.
Joint review of the configuration of health services in the Black Country	<p>The health panel nominated representatives from Walsall who would sit on a joint scrutiny panel with other affected local authorities. Following the consideration of the published consultation document, other affected local authorities have agreed that the proposals are not a substantial variation of services and therefore do not warrant joint scrutiny arrangements.</p> <p>The panel have undertaken a site visit to the Manor Hospital to view the neonatal and paediatric services currently available, these services being the main object of the proposals, and to seek the views of clinicians about the future proposals.</p> <p>The panel considered the review document and sent their response to the consultation on the Black Country Review.</p>

3. Items for consideration for the 2006/7 work programme

3.1 Summarised below are work streams which have commenced but have not yet completed. The panel may wish to include them into the work programme for 2006/7.

Items	Comments
Obesity in adulthood	The health panel agreed that the next topic of discussion for the obesity working group would be adult obesity and that this review should commence during the 2006/07 municipal year.
NHS Bank	In response to the national funding situation in the NHS, Council expressed concerns in relation to the impact on the citizens of Walsall. Council requested that "the relevant Scrutiny and Performance Panel scrutinise the Council's and its partners' ability to deliver improved community health outcomes in light of the measures put in place by the Secretary of State that seem to reward failure and penalise good management"
Review of mental health services in the Black Country	The review will consider options for the future configuration of mental health services and was referred to the health scrutiny panel. Formal public consultation took place in June 2006; members of the Health panel (2005/06) were invited to attend this consultation.
Access to mental health services	The panel resolved that the review, in respect of the access to Mental Health Services should be placed on the work programme for consideration in respect of the action plan for the next 6 – 8 months.
Life expectancy including sexually health issues in Walsall.	Dr Ramiah to report on the issues as requested by the panel.
Increasing breast/cervical screening	Dr Ramiah to report on the issues as requested by the panel.
Infant mortality	Dr Ramiah to report on the issues as requested by the panel.
Breast feeding	Dr Ramiah to report on the issues as requested by the panel.

4. Scoping Criteria

4.1 Members are encouraged to use the selection criteria attached (**appendix 1**) to ensure that potential scrutiny items are given fair and consistent consideration against a framework that highlights and focuses the reason for scrutiny.

4.2 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.

5 Using the selection criteria

- 5.1 The criteria for selection 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.
- 5.2 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 one year and, therefore, the panel should consider whether work streams 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.
- 5.3 The importance of the potential scrutiny item to delivering the Council's Vision and achieving excellence by 2008, provides Score C.
- 5.4 Multiplying Scores A, B and C provides the overall score for the particular potential scrutiny item.

6. Proposed Dates for Future Meetings of Panel

The following dates were approved at the meeting of the health and social care scrutiny and performance panel as possible future dates for the health scrutiny panel.

Thursday 4 July 2006
Thursday 3 August 2006
Thursday 21 September 2006
Thursday 12 October 2006
Wednesday 8 November 2006
Thursday 18 January 2007
Thursday 1 March 2007

7. Conclusion

The panel will need to note the information set out in this report and agree a work programme for the municipal year 2006/7. Members will also need to agree the dates for future meetings of the panel in 2006/07. Members may also wish to utilise the selection criteria attached at **appendix 1** to ensure that potential scrutiny items are given fair and consistent consideration.

Scoping of Work Programme - Criteria for Selection

Appendix 1

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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