

Health Scrutiny and Performance Panel

**Agenda
Item No.**

20 June 2013

Consideration of Panel Work Programme for 2013/14

Ward(s) All

Portfolio Holders:

Councillor Ali – Public Health and Protection

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 2013/14.

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 value the Panel can add and what tools and performance measures are available to support them in their work.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Member's consider the range of items within their remit available to them and agree a work programme for 2013/14 along with any potential working groups and their membership;

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 2013/14. The borough's 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 as well as being one of the Council's core values. Members are advised to consider what, if any, equality implications there are for any items on their work programme.

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. Whilst Council officers carry out a range of consultation activity on behalf of the Council, Members themselves engage with the public on a much more frequent basis and it is valuable to consider feedback from these sources as well.

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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 agreed by Council at its meeting on 20 and 22 May 2013. For information the Panels remit in Article 6 of the Walsall Council Constitution reads as:

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All aspects and general services related to health service matters, for example, health partnership matters and the public health agenda as conferred under the Health and Social Care Act 2001 within the functions set out in section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000.

Work Programme

In agreeing its work programme for 2013/24 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, and Partners.

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.

Working Groups

Members need to decide whether they want to operate any working groups for this year. Working Groups are at their most effective when they are considering broad policy areas that require detailed investigation time that cannot be completed at Panel level. The Panel will set the working group remit, its membership and once a working group has completed its investigations it will report its findings and recommendations to the Panel for consideration and adoption.

It is very 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. In previous years experience and given the number of Panel's in this year's municipal diary, it is suggested that each Panel should look to operate one working group at any one time. Panels that wish to operate more than working group during the year should timetable the second to start as the first finishes.

A copy of the councils working group toolkit has been despatched separately to Members and is available to members of the public by request. Member's are asked to familiarise themselves with this toolkit ahead of deciding what, if any, working groups they wish to run.

Suggested Items

In addition and in consultation with the Social Care and Inclusion Executive Director the following items have been identified as potential areas for the Panel to consider:-

- Community Health Services in Walsall
- The impact of change at Mid Staffs Hospital
- Rapid discharges/ Out of Hours discharges at Walsall Healthcare Trust
- Mortality rates in Walsall
- Primary care services in Walsall
- Information on the '111' service
- Performance of Accident and Emergency
- Care Quality Working Group
- Mental Health Trust Service transformation

Arising from the Scrutiny survey the following items have been suggested as items to consider:-

- Integration of health and social care
- Care quality strategy for elderly care (Also identified above)
- Mental health provision (Also identified above)
- Health Education
- How to encourage preventative health measures in the community
- Life expectancy

In addition to the above at the meeting there will be a presentation about the health and social care system in Walsall, this may provide further potential areas for the Panel to consider.

The items highlighted above are not an exhaustive list, but are those that have been identified in advance of the meeting. Members should consider these alongside any items they wish to raise themselves and use them to develop a balanced work programme that concentrates on what is important to them and on where they believe they can make a difference.

Once agreed, the Chair, in consultation with the Executive Director, shall produce the work programme to ensure that each item is considered at the appropriate time before circulating a copy of the work programme to all members of the Panel.

Appendix One is a copy of the forward plan for June to September 2013.