

Health Scrutiny and Performance Panel

**Agenda
Item No.**

DATE: 22 June 2009

7

Consideration of Panel Work Programme for 2009/10

Ward(s) All

Portfolio Holders:

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 2009/10.

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 2009/10 along with any potential working groups and their membership.

Background papers:

Scrutiny Annual Report 2008/09
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 Local Area Agreement 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 amended by Council at its meeting on 18 and 20 May 2009. The Health, Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny and Performance Panel was deleted and replaced with two new panels to be known as the Health Scrutiny and Performance Panel and the Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny and Performance Panel. For information the Health Scrutiny Panels remit in Article 6 of the Walsall Council Constitution now reads as:

Health Scrutiny and Performance Panel

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

In agreeing its work programme for 2009/10 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.

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 increased number of Panel's in this years municipal diary, it is suggested that each Panel should look to run only one working

group at any one time. Panels that wish to operate more than working group during the year could 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.

Value for Money Service Reviews

The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Panel has developed a value for money (vfm) toolkit to assist Members if it is decided to complete a service review. Last year the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Panel used the value for money toolkit to review the Councils Communication and Payroll and Pensions services. The two reviews were well received by both Members and Officers and resulted in positive recommendations for both services. The Corporate Panel recommended that other Panel's also look to use this toolkit and this recommendation was endorsed by the scrutiny working group of Chair's and Vice-Chairs.

The vfm assessment tool provides a framework for members in partnership with services to work through and is divided into 3 broad themes:

1. What does it cost to provide this service? (economy)
2. How is this service performing? (efficiency)
3. What quality is the service being provided? (effectiveness)

For each of these themes there is the opportunity/potential for scrutiny panels with the service being assessed to benchmark with other service providers to give a clearer picture of relative performance.

The aim is that on completing this assessment scrutiny members will be able to make a judgement regarding the vfm provided by the service and identify and recommend any potential further action.

The vfm toolkit can be used to support the investigations of working groups or independently. When used independently the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Panel appointed a lead member who liaised with the service area whilst the toolkit is completed and then reports back their findings to the Panel for agreement of recommendations and any other further action that may be necessary.

Potential Items

Appendix One contains a number of items that the Health, Sub group previously resolved to consider at a future date and further suggestions of emerging issues. A summary of the potential item has been completed on a standard template to assist Members with deciding what they wish to include on their work programme. This template requires the following points to be considered-

- **What the Issue Is**
- **Where it has come from-** for example it could be a carry over item from last year's panel, a suggestion from a Councillor or member of the public or it could be a new item officers are aware of that is coming up this year,
- **Why it is important-** with limited time available to Members they need to be able to prioritise their work and concentrate on those things that really matter.
- **Who it affects-** Does it impact on any particular ward or user group? Does it concern partner agencies or staff groups? Any potential equalities issues may be highlighted here if the item is likely to have a disproportionate affect on any particular group.
- **How can scrutiny add value-** What specifically can Scrutiny do? E.g. provide feedback and recommendations ahead of a Cabinet (or partner executive) decision, support the development of policy, service review, public engagement etc. Suggestions have also been made here for if the item is particularly suited to a particular method of scrutiny such as a working group or value for money review.
- **Timings-** This will highlight any critical timings that would need to be taken into consideration such as statutory deadlines which would dictate when scrutiny would need to have considered the item by if they are to have any valuable input
- **Performance Information-** This includes any relevant performance indicators that can provide Members with a guide on current levels of performance and also give a benchmark to measure future improvement.

The items highlighted at appendix one are not an exhaustive list, but only those that it is possible to provide 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.

Other items members may wish to consider adding to their work programme are:

- Local Involvement Networks (LINKs)
- Dementia Strategy
- Discussion on local Ambulance Stations
- Health Inequalities

Further information will be available at the panel meeting on these items.

Appendix Two contains the most recent forward plan available at the time the report was published. The Panel may wish to consider if it is appropriate for them to look at any of the items on the forward plan within their remit.

Proposed Items for Scrutiny Work Programme

Issue	Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership Trust				
Who from	Last years Health Scrutiny panel				
Why is it important?	The creation of the new partnership trust delivering mental health services across Dudley and Walsall needs to be monitored to ensure that the new organisation continues to deliver effective services and meets the needs of service users in Walsall.				
Who does it affect?	Residents across Walsall and Dudley accessing mental health services.				
Who needs to be involved?	Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership Trust.				
How can scrutiny add value?	<p>In order to scrutinise the provision of services for the borough it may be necessary to form a joint scrutiny committee with Dudley Council.</p> <p>Identification and consideration of areas which the trust declared as having 'insufficient assurance' in its declaration in the annual health check would allow the panel to be involved in development of policies and procedures of the new trust.</p>				
Timings	To be confirmed				
Performance Information	<i>Include any relevant performance information that will inform members of current performance levels and provide baseline for future monitoring.</i>				
	PI Number	Description	Current Position	Current Rag	09/10 Target
			?	?	?

Appendix one

Proposed Items for Scrutiny Work Programme

Issue	Perinatal and infant mortality				
Who from	Last years Health Scrutiny panel				
Why is it important?	Concern over the level of infant deaths in Walsall, and evidence that these deaths are increasing.				
Who does it affect?	Perinatal and infant mortality impacts on families within the community.				
Who needs to be involved?	Based on analysis by NHS Walsall this item would need to engage all organisations concerned with providing services to ensure economic and social wellbeing including the PCT, hospital trust, and local authority.				
How can scrutiny add value?	<p>Using the results from the analysis of the review scrutiny can identify gaps in service provision and areas of duplication to make recommendations on improvement. Members are well placed to give advice on community engagement.</p> <p>Monitoring information can be scrutinised to ensure rates of perinatal and infant mortality have been reduced.</p>				
Timings	.				
Performance Information	<i>Include any relevant performance information that will inform members of current performance levels and provide baseline for future monitoring.</i>				
	PI Number	Description	Current Position	Current Rag	09/10 Target

Proposed Items for Scrutiny Work Programme

Issue	Foundation Trust Status				
Who from	Last years Health Scrutiny panel				
Why is it important?	The change in status of the Manor Hospital will transform the way the hospital operates. Managers will have more autonomy: they will not be line managed by the Department of Health (DoH) and they will undergo less inspection and monitoring. It is therefore important for the hospital to be held to account by local councillors.				
Who does it affect?	This affects all residents of Walsall, and service users from outside of the borough. It also affects staff at the hospital.				
Who needs to be involved?	At this stage it is likely that the only involvement needed will be from the Manor Hospital.				
How can scrutiny add value?	Monitoring the status of the hospital to ensure that services to the residents of Walsall are not adversely affected by the change of the hospitals status.				
Timings	<i>To tie in with Foundation Trust status application.</i>				
Performance Information	<i>Include any relevant performance information that will inform members of current performance levels and provide baseline for future monitoring.</i>				
	PI Number	Description	Current Position	Current Rag	09/10 Target
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	PI Number	Description	Current Position	Current Rag	09/10 Target
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Proposed Items for Scrutiny Work Programme

Issue	Annual Health Check – third party commentary/performance information
Who from	Last years Health Scrutiny panel / Healthcare Commission
Why is it important?	It is the panels opportunity to feed into the inspection process and have it's say on the health services provided in Walsall based on the evidence that it has considered throughout the year.
Who does it affect?	<p>The third party commentary affects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walsall Community Health • NHS Walsall • Hospital Trust • Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership Trust • West Midlands Ambulance Service <p>The commentary is made by the scrutiny panel in consideration of evidence considered throughout the year on behalf of local residents.</p>
Who needs to be involved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walsall Community Health • NHS Walsall • Hospital Trust • Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership Trust • West Midlands Ambulance Service
How can scrutiny add value?	<p>Scrutiny can add value by considering selected performance information throughout the year, and using this to inform its third party commentaries. Performance information to be considered throughout the year;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walsall Hospitals – complaints and serious infections - NHS Walsall complaints - Ambulance response times - Walsall Community Health Complaints - Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Trust complaints and 'corporate dashboard'
Timings	<i>Trusts must submit their declarations by 1 May each year and so a scrutiny panel must be held at the beginning of April (although provision of information and trust board meetings may dictate this)</i>

Appendix one

Performance Information					
<i>Include any relevant performance information that will inform members of current performance levels and provide baseline for future monitoring.</i>					
	PI Number	Description	Current Position	Current Rag	09/10 Target

Proposed Items for Scrutiny Work Programme

Issue	Manor Hospital Private Finance Initiative (PFI)				
Who from	Last years Health Scrutiny panel, panel members participated in a tour of the Manor Hospital development.				
Why is it important?	The PFI underpins the provision of the acute health services within the borough.				
Who does it affect?	This affects all residents of Walsall, and service users from outside of the borough. It also affects staff at the hospital.				
Who needs to be involved?	At this stage it is likely that the only involvement needed will be from the Manor Hospital.				
How can scrutiny add value?	<p>Scrutinise the progress of the PFI to monitor completion of phases and ensure that hospital services are not affected negatively by the development.</p> <p>Once completed there may be a role for the panel to play in monitoring the repayment of the PFI loan, and how the hospital raises these funds and the potential effect on services and Foundation Trust Status.</p>				
Timings	<i>To be confirmed – to tie in with completion phases at hospital.</i>				
Performance Information	<i>Include any relevant performance information that will inform members of current performance levels and provide baseline for future monitoring.</i>				
	PI Number	Description	Current Position	Current Rag	09/10 Target

Proposed Items for Scrutiny Work Programme

Issue	World Class Commissioning				
Who from	Last Years Work Programme				
Why is it important?	World Class Commissioning will affect the way that health services are delivered in Walsall.				
Who does it affect?	Residents of Walsall				
Who needs to be involved?	Walsall tPCT – Walsall Community Health and NHS Walsall.				
How can scrutiny add value?	By considering the implications of world class commissioning for the tpct and Walsall health economy.				
Timings					
Performance Information	<i>Include any relevant performance information that will inform members of current performance levels and provide baseline for future monitoring.</i>				
	PI Number	Description	Current Position	Current Rag	09/10 Target

Proposed Items for Scrutiny Work Programme

Issue	Obesity Working Group				
Who from	Health Scrutiny Panel				
Why is it important?	The working group has been operation since 2006, and has considered a variety of evidence on obesity, including visits to leisure facilities in the borough. The group has considered this evidence and has drafted a list of review recommendations.				
Who does it affect?	Residents of Walsall				
Who needs to be involved?	The Health Scrutiny Panel				
How can scrutiny add value?	The Panel are now in a position to finalise the report and make its recommendations.				
Timings					
Performance Information	<i>Include any relevant performance information that will inform members of current performance levels and provide baseline for future monitoring.</i>				
	PI Number	Description	Current Position	Current Rag	09/10 Target

Proposed Items for Scrutiny Work Programme

Issue	The Foundation Trust application for West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust.				
Who from	West Midlands Ambulance Service				
Why is it important?	Foundation Trusts (FT) are NHS organisations providing free care at the point of delivery subject to NHS performance targets. Whilst FTs have greater freedom from central government to develop services they are more accountable to the communities they serve. Through membership a new form of ownership will be offered to patients, partner organisations, staff and the public. Members will be engaged in giving feedback and informing service developments. Members will elect a Members Council that will appoint the Chairman and Non-executive directors and approve business plan.				
Who does it affect?	Residents of Walsall/service users				
Who needs to be involved?	West Midlands Ambulance Service				
How can scrutiny add value?	The Health scrutiny panel will need to decide if this is a substantial change to the service. The scrutiny panel can represent the local community in responding to consultation and having an input early in the process.				
Timings	<i>Public consultation is planned to start 1 October and will last 12 weeks.</i>				
Performance Information	<i>Include any relevant performance information that will inform members of current performance levels and provide baseline for future monitoring.</i>				
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Appendix one

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