

7 February 2022

**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*

The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee will meet on 31 January and consider items on:

- Transition from Children's to adults services
- Youth Justice Peer Review.

A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

*Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee*

The Committee met on 13 January 2022 and considered an update on SEND Local Area Improvement Programme and EHCPs including the steps being taken via a Written Statement of Action (WSOA) to address the areas of concern identified by Ofsted and the CQC in the February 2019 inspection and to prepare for a re-inspection, expected to be in February 2022. The EHC Pathways Recovery Plan to reduce and remove backlogs and to improve timeliness in respect of Education, Health and Care Plan assessments.

Members received a Walsall Schools Overview Report. This updated on the attendance in education and early year's settings in the Borough during the Covid-19 pandemic. As well as update on suspensions and permanent exclusions in schools in the Borough and on school improvement processes through a Red-Amber-Green (RAG) rating system and schools causing concern (SCC) matrix, together with the outcomes following the re-introduction of Ofsted inspections.

The committee consider an update on School Organisation and Pupil Planning including an outline of the role of the School Organisation Service. An update on public place planning for primary and secondary schools in the Borough and information on capital funding and school expansion projects and schemes.

### *Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee*

The Committee met on 18 January 2022 and considered three items.

Firstly, Members received a presentation on the Town Deal and the progress made so far. It was noted that the council was currently at the business case stage of this process and a further report was requested to be brought to the Committee next municipal year when delivery has begun. Members discussed various named projects and the opportunities they presented for the borough, highlighting the importance of encouraging interest in the town.

Secondly, the Committee received a presentation from Professor Gatrad regarding climate change which he described as a children's rights issue. Professor Gatrad provided details on temperature increases and air pollution and answered a number of questions regarding, amongst other topics, the importance of trees and personal measures that can be taken to reduce impact on the planet.

Finally an update regarding the council's Climate Emergency Action Plan was provided. It was noted that a comprehensive action plan had been developed and the council's tree planting strategy was discussed.

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 3 March and will discuss Phoenix 10, Willenhall Masterplan, Bonfires and the Local Transport Plan.

### *Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee*

Members received an update on the transfer of emergency urological cases to Royal Wolverhampton Trust which was originally planned for December 2021, however this has been delayed until April 2022. In response to challenge in relation to this delay, the Committee were provided with detail in relation to staff sickness due to Covid and supply chain difficulties (which had impacted building work). The Committee were assured that there had not been a negative impact on patients and the success of Walsall Together was noted as a contributory factor to good performance (in relation to transfer of care) at Walsall Healthcare Trust.

The Committee also received an assurance report regarding Walsall Healthcare Trust's CQC Inspection of March and July 2021. Members sought reassurance that such issues would not happen again and were provided with detail on safeguards put in place to prevent this happening. The Trust were committed to reducing the number of agency nurses used and were investing in training and skills of staff. The Committee will receive a further update in 6 months.

**Authors:**

Craig Goodall

Principal Democratic Services Officer

☎ 01922 654765

✉ [Craig.Goodall@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:Craig.Goodall@walsall.gov.uk)

Paul Fantom

Democratic Services Officer

☎ 01922 653484

✉ [Paul.Fantom@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:Paul.Fantom@walsall.gov.uk)

Nikki Gough

Democratic Services Officer

☎ 01922 654767

✉ [Nikki.Gough@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:Nikki.Gough@walsall.gov.uk)

Sian Lloyd

Democratic Services Officer

☎ 01922 655943

✉ [Sian.Lloyd@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:Sian.Lloyd@walsall.gov.uk)