

Scrutiny Activity 2021/22

The table below provides a summary of Scrutiny activity and oversight carried out during 2021/22. This includes updates to seek assurances on service provision and outcomes.

Figure 2: Summary of Scrutiny activity and oversight (March 2021 to January 2022)

Place and External Relations	Integrated Care and Wellbeing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMIC inspection of GMP • Climate change and improving the local environment • Economic impacts of Covid-19 • Tameside Cultural Offer and Strategy • Homelessness and Housing • Digital Offer and Delivery • Response to Community Safety Strategy consultation • Corporate Performance Scorecard • Mid-year Budget Update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Improvement Service • Health and Care Bill • Children’s Services – Ofsted focused visit • Mental Health (Access and Crisis) • Adult Services • Tameside SEND inspection • Assurance review of LGSCO focus report – Domestic Abuse • Corporate Performance Scorecard • Mid-year Budget Update <p><u>Children’s Working Group</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fostering marketing and recruitment • Children’s Services Improvement Plan

In-depth review

The following reviews carried out during 2021/22:

Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel - review completed on Homelessness and Housing. Report and Executive Response presented at the joint meeting of Cabinet and Overview Panel on 9 February 2022.

Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel - review activity commenced on Mental Health (Access and Crisis). Interim report and findings presented at the joint meeting of Cabinet and Overview Panel on 9 February 2022. The review will continue to the next municipal year.

The Children’s Working Group has remained in place as a fixed sub-group of the Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel. The group has received updates on:

- Fostering marketing and recruitment
- Children’s Services Improvement Plan

Budget Consultation

Scrutiny Panels received a mid-year budget update at the panel meetings held on 7 and 9 September 2021. The Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth received a formal response of the Scrutiny Chairs, capturing a range of points and highlighting any concerns and specific areas for consideration in supporting the Council’s ongoing work in this area.

All Scrutiny Panel members were invited to attend one of two annual budget briefing sessions held on 17 January 2022. This follows on from a mid-year budget position update received in September 2021. The independence of Scrutiny enables members to seek assurances on budget planning, process and priorities for 2022/23 and beyond. It is also appropriate for budget priorities to inform future Scrutiny activity and work programmes. A response letter of the Scrutiny Chair sent to the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth; and the Director of Finance – Section 151 Officer.

Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO)

Scrutiny continues to review decisions and focus reports published by the Ombudsman. The aim is to ensure learning opportunities be shared with services in a timely manner and for a formal response and/or position statement to be returned to the appropriate Scrutiny Panel within agreed timescales.

It will remain important to ensure that the subject matter is appropriate, proportionate and can add value. Work in this area has progressed well, with the plan to ensure responses be reported to Overview Panel at the earliest opportunity. Activity informed by recent LGSCO focus reports listed below:

- Focus report – HELP! Learning to improve council services for domestic abuse victims (published November 2021).
 - A response of the Executive Member (Health, Social Care and Population Health) and Interim Director of Population Health, received January 2022. The focus report and response tabled in a separate report to the joint meeting of Cabinet and Overview Panel on 9 February 2022.