

OVERVIEW PANEL

29 July 2019

Present: Councillors Ricci (Chair), Cooper, Fairfoull, Glover, J. Homer, Kitchen and Warrington

In Attendance: Steven Pleasant Chief Executive
Sandra Stewart Director of Governance and Pensions
Simon Brunet Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence

Apologies for Absence: Councillors J. Fitzpatrick, Ryan, T. Smith and Welsh

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Overview (Audit) Panel held on 12 November 2018 were agreed as a correct and signed as a correct record.

3. SCRUTINY UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Governance and Pensions summarising work that had been undertaken by the Council's two Scrutiny Panels for the period to July 2019, which was outlined as follows:

The Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel had agreed an Annual Work Programme and confirmed that the Children's Working Group will remain in place for 2019/20 with the Terms of Reference appended to the submitted report. The Scrutiny Panel had considered the Quality of Tameside Care Homes report. Members of the Scrutiny Panel had received an update on new statutory scrutiny guidance, published on 7 May 2019.

Councillor Bill Fairfoull, Deputy Executive Leader (Children and Families); and Richard Hancock, Director of Children's Services, had presented reports on Children's Services improvement and outcomes from the recent Ofsted inspection; and an overview of current arrangements for the recruitment and retention of foster carers in Tameside. The Scrutiny Panel had reviewed options to submit a formal response to the national consultation on support for victims of domestic abuse in safe accommodation.

The Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel had agreed an Annual Work Programme. The Chair had drafted a formal response to the Greater Manchester Clean Air consultation having received a report from the Regulatory Services Manager, including discussion points and areas of concern highlighted by Members. The Scrutiny Panel had received an update on statutory scrutiny guidance, published on 7 May 2019. The Scrutiny Panel had receives an update on the Housing Strategy and improving quality and standards within the private rented sector.

The Panel were informed that Members of the Scrutiny Panels were sent monthly emails to raise awareness to a variety of materials to support their scrutiny role and ensure they had the opportunity to contribute and share any open consultations and engagement exercises. The emails also contained links to Greater Manchester Priorities and the work of the Combined Authority Scrutiny Panels. The most recent circulations were appended to the report and considered by the Panel.

RESOLVED

That the content of the report be noted.

4. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMMES

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Governance and Pensions detailing the work programmes of the Council's Scrutiny Panels to cover the municipal year 2019/20.

It was reported that the work programmes of the Council's scrutiny panels had been developed to reflect priority issues across the Council, Strategic Commission and external partners. The programme supported the approach to improve the flexibility, responsiveness and reporting methods of the panels and had been designed as a two year working document.

Scrutiny activity would continue to be undertaken outside of the six formal meetings and both panels would monitor and evaluate outcomes from previous reviews undertaken and the implementation of past recommendations. In order to further develop scrutiny activity, plans were in place to ensure panel members were able to contribute and respond to a range of engagement and consultation activity taking place within the Council and across partners.

Tables detailing a list of topics for the Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel and Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel to choose from were included in the report in addition to information on monitoring past recommendations and cross panel activity. The list of topics had been agreed at the June 2019 Scrutiny Panel meetings and were a combination of service and performance updates, input to formal consultations and areas for in-depth review.

Members of the Panel suggested that the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel could incorporate a review into empty properties within the Borough and how they might be brought back into use, in particular to help homeless people. Reference was made to the ongoing peer reviews within Services and how they have clearly defined links with work set out in the Scrutiny work programmes.

RESOLVED:

That the Scrutiny Work Programmes and planned activities be noted.

5. QUALITY OF TAMESIDE CARE HOMES

Consideration was given to a report of the Chair of the Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel / Executive Member for Health, Social Care and Population Health detailing recommendations from the Scrutiny review into the Quality of Tameside Care Homes and providing the response from the Executive Member.

Members noted the impact of the Quality Improvement Team in providing direct support to independent providers across the health and social care sector in Tameside, with the overarching need to improve the quality of service provision. The team's primary focus was to be placed on current homes rated 'Inadequate' and 'Requires Improvement', with the drive to raise standards and to improve ratings to 'Good' and 'Outstanding'. The number of care homes rated 'Good' in Tameside has improved from 42% to 69%. There remains one home rated Inadequate and the Quality Improvement Team continue to support the provider to make service improvements.

RESOLVED

That the Overview Panel support the recommendations of the Chair of the Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel and the responses from the Executive Member for Health, Social Care and Population Health.

CHAIR