

REPORT FOR: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 14th November 2012

Subject: Scrutiny Work Programme Proposals

Responsible Officer: Alex Dewsnap, Divisional Director,
Strategic Commissioning

Scrutiny Lead Member area: All

Exempt: No

None

Enclosures:

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report outlines proposals for inclusion in the scrutiny project programme for the remainder of the current administration and it also provides a brief update on projects currently underway.

Recommendations:

Councillors are asked to:

- I. Agree the proposed projects and the proposal to complete all projects by January 2014
- II. Note and if necessary comment on the progress on existing projects.

Section 2 – Report

Introduction

This report proposes projects for inclusion in the scrutiny work programme for the remainder of the current administration. As elections are scheduled for May 2014, this leaves approximately 15 months for the scrutiny work programme to run. It is hoped that all projects can be completed by January 2014 to allow them sufficient time to be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny committee and Cabinet prior to election activity commencing and to the pre-election period of purdah. The projects are proposed by the Scrutiny Leadership Group and are based on the lead councillors' investigations.

Projects proposed

Disabled Access

To investigate the limiting impact on life chances of poor physical access to other facilities including health, leisure, entertainment and employment.

Scrutiny Leads:

Cllrs Anderson and Wright

High Priority

Public Realm

Impact of the ongoing and significant changes in service delivery. An initial report to the Overview and Scrutiny committee has been requested for December.

Scrutiny Leads:

Cllrs Anderson, Wright and Osborn

Medium Priority

Mental Health Services

There are concerns with regard to the performance of CAMHS and mental health services in general and also with the transition between young peoples, adults and elderly people's services. To include social care.

Scrutiny Leads:

Cllrs Khalid, Bednell, James, Mithani and Anderson

Priority – TBC, subject to capacity on the Health and Social Care sub committee

Early Intervention

A case study investigation of how effectively we deliver public health/preventative/early intervention services. To use diabetes as a case study. This will also help to assess the effectiveness of the integration of public health services. [Requested by Chief Executive]

Scrutiny Leads:
Cllrs James, Mithani, Macleod-Cullinane

To take place January/February 2013 to enable input of recommendations into integration of public health

Child's Journey Through Care

To consider the implementation of the Ofsted improvement plan and how young people access support – using the new Ofsted inspection regime as a frame of reference. This work will also facilitate review of implementation of the New Operating Model. Safeguarding services will also continue to be investigated.

Scrutiny Leads:
Cllrs Khalid and Bednell

To commence March 2013

Standing Review of the Budget

In addition, the Standing Review of the Budget proposes to consider the following items as part of its ongoing work:

- Transition of children to adult disability services
- Clinical Commissioning Group finances – members of the Health and Social Care sub to be invited to this meeting

Update on current projects

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC)

The report for the JOSC considering proposals from NHS NW London in the 'Shaping a Healthier Future' consultation has been submitted to NHS NW London along with comments from Harrow. The report has recommended that the JOSC reconvene as necessary to consider further developments. It is not clear what the extent of further involvement in the JOSC will be. This may impact on the potential of the committee to consider either the Mental Health Services or Early Intervention projects

Standing Scrutiny Review of the Budget

The Standing Review of the Budget continues to meet to consider the impact of, and council's response to, changes in local government financial policy. Since the last report to the Overview and Scrutiny committee in September, the standing review has met twice to consider:

- The council's use of capital resources – financial and property – for the regeneration and development of the borough.
- The council's approach to the self financing of the Housing Revenue Account.

Reports from each of these discussions will be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny committee as they are available.

As proposed above, the following issues will also be incorporated into the work programme of the standing review of the budget:

- Transition of children to adult disability services
- Clinical Commissioning Group finances

Customer Care

This project has now started. The aim is to re-confirm the review group membership and begin collecting evidence before the end of the year.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Performance Issues

There are no performance issues associated with this report.

Environmental Impact

There is no environmental impact associated with this report.

Risk Management Implications

There are no risk management implications associated with this report.

Equalities implications

No equalities impact assessment has been undertaken in relation to this report as no changes to service delivery are proposed

Corporate Priorities

- Keeping neighbourhoods clean, green and safe
- United and involved communities: a Council that listens and leads
- Supporting and protecting people who are most in need

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Not required for this report.

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Lynne Margetts, Service Manager Scrutiny, 020 8420 9387

Background Papers: None