

**REPORT FOR: OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Date:	13 th December 2011
Subject:	Scrutiny Lead Member Report
Responsible Officer:	Alex Dewsnap, Divisional Director, Partnership Development and Performance
Scrutiny Lead Member area:	All
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	<i>Reports from the Scrutiny Lead Members</i>

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

The report accompanies the reports from the Scrutiny Lead Members.

Recommendations:

The Committee is requested to consider the reports from the Adult Health and Social Care and Children and Young People Scrutiny Lead Members and agree the actions proposed therein.

Section 2 – Report

Introductory paragraph

This report outlines details of the work of the Scrutiny Lead Members for Adult Health and Social Care and Children and Young People. There are no reports from Corporate Effectiveness, Safer and Stronger Communities or Sustainable Development and Enterprise

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 risks associated with this report.

Equalities implications

Was an Equality Impact Assessment carried out? No

This report outlines the activities of the scrutiny lead councillors, it makes no proposals to change service delivery.

Corporate Priorities

The Scrutiny Lead Members' responsibilities cover all areas of the council's activity.

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, lynne.margetts@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers: None

SCRUTINY LEAD MEMBERS' REPORT: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Lead Members: Councillors Christine Bednell and Krishna James

The lead members met on 1st November 2011.

Attendees

- Councillor Christine Bednell, Scrutiny Policy Lead Member
- Catherine Doran, Corporate Director Children's Services
- Nahreen Matlib, Senior Professional Scrutiny

Matters arising from last leads briefing

These would be covered in the briefing.

Developments in Children's Services – directorate update

Directorate transformation

Following the release of the Chief Executive's proposals for a senior management restructure, Children's Services are in a different position to that of other directorates in that as it has recently undergone major change, it will not be further restructured for now. Time is needed to bed down the new structure and the Chief Executive is sympathetic to this.

There are also recent government recommendations that suggest that Directors of Children's Services should not take on other strategic responsibilities for the organisation but can look across other boroughs for strategic roles within their area of expertise namely Children's Services. Therefore CD will be looking for strategic opportunities and join ups across West London.

The Children's Services restructure is on track with a number of posts being filled as interviews continue. It is a difficult time for staff however they are being fully engaged throughout the process. The plan remains to move onto the second floor of the Civic Centre in January 2012.

Commissioning panel

Commissioning panel papers have been submitted following extensive work. Children's Services is able to meet Year 1 targets however Years 2 and 3 will prove more difficult, especially as the directorate has made such high levels of savings in the last year. A key area of focus for the savings has been management costs and reorganisation benefits. The directorate is fully engaged with the business support review and this will accrue savings over two years. Furthermore big savings can be achieved through embracing procurement.

Children's centres

There will be a report to next Cabinet detailing the outcomes of the recent consultation on children's centres. Procurement for a hub and spoke model with contracts for the voluntary sector will save £1m without needing to close any of the borough's children's centres. The children's centres will be kept open and used more creatively. There are efficiencies to be gained on revenue costs through the hub and spoke model and across the council there is potential to deliver a wider range of services through children's centre sites. They will deliver important outreach services to communities. Councillor Bednell agreed that this was important as then they are not necessarily seen as civic buildings of the local authority which can be off-putting to particular families.

Councillor Bednell suggested that youth services could also be brought onto the site to make best use of assets. However CD pointed out that the borough no longer provides youth services as such but rather targeted services to those most in need and this operates out of one site, Wealdstone Youth Centre. This could be one reason for Harrow youngsters not engaging in the recent riots, because every potential rioter had been targeted, approached and deterred.

Policy horizon scanning – relevant policy issues/implications at national and local level

SEN green paper

The pilots are currently underway. Harrow was not successful in its bids but has started to do some of the groundwork on SEN and personalisation. CD suggested that a future piece of work that scrutiny could consider could be SEN provision in academies to ensure that SEN resources are being used appropriately and that SEN performance reflects this.

Schools capital review

There have been great strides made locally in terms of capital planning. Harrow made the highest level of capital bids through the Capital Forum.

To action:

- To put the consideration of SEN on the agenda for the next scrutiny leads briefing so that it be revisited once the directorate has done more groundwork on the area (NM).
- The performance of academies after the first year of operation to be considered for the scrutiny work programme (Scrutiny Leadership Group).

Scrutiny - items coming up at Committee and review work

Scrutiny review on engaging young people

This is ongoing and should conclude by the end of the year with a view to reporting back to O&S in January 2012.

Committee items

The report on school place planning will be presented to O&S on 1 November. As the report notes, there will potentially be an application for a free school in the borough by the I-Foundation. Site options will need working through with the local authority. The school would take children from 0 years through to secondary school age.

As discussed above, a further item for consideration on the scrutiny committee work programme should be a look at the performance of academies after their first year of operation, and also a consideration of performance in relation to the changing SEN landscape.

Suggestion for scrutiny work programme

CD suggested that it would be valuable for scrutiny to consider a review on children's health provision in the borough. This could consider safeguarding aspects and help shape future commissioning plans, as well as open up a constructive dialogue with GPs. Current work and budgets are somewhat dominated by a focus on adults however there is high mobility and risk in the younger population. Issues explored could include the investment in and delivery of services around children's health. Current investment tends to focus on the acute side of care. Children's health provision could be benchmarked against other boroughs and in turn this could influence the commissioning of future services. Harrow has examples of very good practice (e.g. multi-agency working in children's centres) that could be developed further.

To action:

- Scrutiny to consider placing a review of children's health provision on its work programme (Scrutiny Leadership Group).

Next leads briefing - date and possible content

To be arranged. Due to a mix up in diaries the portfolio holders had been unable to attend this meeting and so they are to be invited to the next scrutiny leads briefing.

To action:

- The next scrutiny leads briefing to be arranged for about 3 to 4 months time with invitations to the portfolio holders (NM).

SCRUTINY LEAD MEMBERS' REPORT: **ADULT HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE**

Lead Members: Councillors Ann Gate and Vina Mithani

The lead members met on 3rd November 2011.

Attendees

- Paul Najsarek, Corporate Director, Adults & Housing
- Bernie Flaherty, Divisional Director, Community Care
- Fola Irikefe, Scrutiny Officer

Adults Update

The Divisional Director, Adult Social Care briefed members that the re-ablement programme had been running for a year and there is a 94% satisfaction rate amongst users. It was reported that 85% of those that participate in the programme do not go on to access further services. It was enquired over whether there was any benchmarking for which the council can measure itself against and it was explained that there was no formal benchmarking at this time other than the Department of Health quadrants relating to the percentage of users who following re-ablement do not then go on to require a social care service. Harrow is placed in the "excellent" category.

Personal Budgets

The council is reaching the end of year four for personal budgets and is on track to reach the 50% target for personal budgets. The target for the cash element is 25%. This is proving challenging as significant numbers of older people in particular are choosing a managed service over cash. Further development of Shop 4 Support should greatly assist with this.

The Council was ranked second place in terms of the support provided to carers last year. The Chair made the point that positive feedback as well as complaints should be fed back to staff in order to acknowledge the good work that's taking place.

Some of the challenges within the division include; the rising number of un-scheduled reviews that are required in addition to the yearly review process, the budget pressures in terms of the change in demographics and the fact that people are living longer and so this in turn means that they are needing more care. Preventative services are making an impact in Harrow and this year there were 150 less deaths. This is very good news, but it does put extra pressure on already tight budgets. In view of this, Adults services will need to take this into consideration in their growth bids for the coming years.

Due to financial pressures with NHS Harrow's budget and Social Care pressures there is an increasing potential risk of people falling through the gap when there is disparity in terms of whether services are deemed social care or health. The lead member enquired over how this issue would be dealt with in the future.

She was advised that the new commissioning support organisations would greatly assist in this alongside the other existing measures that monitor users moving between organisations.

Adults Services – Consultation Results

The adults services consultation outcomes were presented to Cabinet in October 2011 where the contribution policy was agreed. However, Cabinet negotiated a 5/6

month implementation start date so contribution will be coming in, in April 2012. New people coming into the system will be required to contribute immediately.

The charges for meals on wheels will remain as they are and Cabinet has asked that some work is done to look into how to maximise efficiencies with the meals on wheels service. As part of this costs are being considered with providers.

The needs assessment team will be working on the re-assessment of clients whilst financial assessments will also be carried out at the same time. The team that will be carrying out the assessments are also trained in personal budgets so whilst people are going through assessments, they will also be supported to take on personal budgets. The team responsible for carrying out the assessments provide a report on a weekly basis to the Divisional Director - Adult Social Care and there are monthly steering group meetings with Corporate Director, Adults & Housing.

The leads were informed that eligibility for day centre transport is being re-considered as there are some people who are able to access other means of transport to get to day centres. There is a drive to ensure that it is those with real need are able to access the services.

In terms of concessionary travel, members agreed the following points at Cabinet:

- Should someone lose their card, they must pay £10 for a replacement card.
- There is a new criteria for getting the concessionary travel card on mental health grounds.

There will be slower implementation of this policy than had been planned and the financial savings will only come in, in 2013/14.

The Adults Services consultation was viewed as a success because customers/clients views had been genuinely sought and listened to and the equalities impact assessment was written by the actual service users in the voluntary sector.

For action: Adults Services consultation feedback report and monitoring impact to be considered by the Health and Social Care Sub Committee at a future meeting,

Public Health

The Corporate Director, Adults & Housing explained that the Department of Health guidance for Public Health is due to be published before the end of the year. There will be guidance on the transfer of services in terms of how to manage HR issues, the final outcomes framework and a shadow budget will be allocated from April 2012, this will be fully granted to the local authority from April 2013.

A lead member enquired about what would happen to health visitors to which they learnt that initially they would become the responsibility of Public Health England. The Health and Wellbeing Board agreed that once the guidance is available, the Public Health Transition Plan will be pulled together by March 2012.

For action: Public Health Transition Plan to be scheduled for March 2012 Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting.

The Director of Public Health is currently meeting with other west London authorities to look at what work could be done across north west London that could provide better value for money. For example the analysis of data, needs assessment and procurement could possibly be done together. The Director of Public Health is trying to build on the existing west London procurement hub and there is enthusiasm for Harrow hosting such arrangements.

End of life care and the impact with the changes to NHS was considered at the meeting and the leads learnt that there is an end of life group and an End of Life strategy currently in development.

For action: End of Life Strategy to be scheduled onto Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee work programme

The lead member also enquired about the admiral nurses service and were advised that they are no longer being funded as it came within voluntary sector funding and as part of the new voluntary sector criteria for social care initiatives it could no longer be funded as it is a health initiative. NHS Harrow were notified of the changes and they were notified of the plans to stop funding the service. Within adult social care itself there are a number of services for dementia besides the admiral nurses. Members requested a briefing on this subject.

For action: figures on the number of those affected by the end of the provision of admiral nurses to be provided to leads.

Next meeting to be set in February 2012.