Committee: Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Date: 20 June 2022

Wards: All

Subject: Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2022/23

Lead officer: Stella Akintan, Scrutiny Officer

Lead member: Councillor Agatha Akyigyina, Chair of the Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Contact officer: Stella Akintan: stella.akintan@merton.gov.uk, 020 8545 3390

Recommendations:

That members of the Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel:

  i. Finalise the topics for work programme 2022/23 municipal year, and agree issues and items for inclusion (see draft in Appendix 1);

  ii. Ask Scrutiny Officer to work with colleagues to draw up a draft work programme with a schedule for each topic and bring to the next meeting for agreement.

---

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

    The purpose of this report is to support and advise Panel members to determine their work programme for the 2022/23 municipal year.

    This report sets out a summary of discussion by councillors and co-opted members at a topic selection workshop held on 07 June 2022

    Panel Members to be aware that there is flexibility in the work programme and it can be revised throughout the year to respond to issues as they arise.

1.1   In order to gather items for the agenda, the Scrutiny Team has undertaken a campaign to gather suggestions for issues to scrutinise either as agenda items or task group reviews. Suggestions have been received from members of the public, councillors and partner organisations including the police, NHS and the voluntary and community sector. The Scrutiny Team has consulted with departmental management teams in order to identify forthcoming issues on which the Panel could contribute to the policymaking process.

1.2   The panel members who attended a "topic selection" workshop on 07 June 2022 discussed these suggestions. Suggestions were prioritised at the workshop. Participants sought to identify issues that related to the Council's strategic priorities or where there was underperformance; issues of public interest or concern and issues where scrutiny could make a difference.

1.3   A note of the workshop discussion relating to the remit of the Panel is attached

2.   Task group reviews

2.1   A review on Youth Provision has been put forward as a suggested in- depth task group review for this year.

3.   ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

3.1   The Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel is free to determine its work programme as it sees fit. Members may therefore choose to identify a work programme that does not take into account these considerations. This is not advised as ignoring the issues raised would either conflict with good practice and/or principles endorsed in the Review of Scrutiny, or could mean that adequate support would not be available to carry out the work identified for the work programme.

3.2   A range of suggestions from the public, partner organisations, officers and Members for inclusion in the scrutiny work programme are set out in the appendices, together with a suggested approach to determining which to include in the work programme. Members may choose to respond differently. However, in doing so, Members should be clear about expected outcomes, how realistic expectations are and the impact of their decision on their wider work programme and support time. Members are also free to incorporate into their work programme any other issues they think should be subject to scrutiny over the course of the year, with the same considerations in mind.

4.   CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

4.1   To assist Members to identify priorities for inclusion in the Panel's work programme, the Scrutiny Team has undertaken a campaign to gather suggestions for possible scrutiny reviews from a number of sources:

   a. Members of the public have been approached using the following tools: request for suggestions from all councillors and co-opted members, letter to partner organisations and to a range of local voluntary and community organisations.

   b. Councillors have put forward suggestions by raising issues in scrutiny meetings, via the Overview and Scrutiny Member Survey 2021, and by contacting the Scrutiny Team direct; and

   c. Officers have been consulted via discussion at departmental management team meetings.

5.   FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

5.1   There are none specific to this report. Scrutiny work involves consideration of the financial, resource and property issues relating to the topic being scrutinised. Furthermore, scrutiny work will also need to assess the implications of any recommendations made to Cabinet, including specific financial, resource and property implications.

6.   LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

6.1   Overview and scrutiny bodies operate within the provisions set out in the Local Government Act 2000, the Health and Social Care Act 2001 & 2012 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

6.2   Scrutiny work involves consideration of the legal and statutory issues relating to the topic being scrutinised. Furthermore, scrutiny work will also need to assess the implications of any recommendations made to Cabinet, including specific legal and statutory implications.

7.   HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

7.1   It is a fundamental aim of the scrutiny process to ensure that there is full and equal access to the democratic process through public involvement and engagement. The reviews will involve work to consult local residents, community and voluntary sector groups, businesses, hard to reach groups, partner organisations etc and the views gathered will be fed into the review.

7.2   Scrutiny work involves consideration of the human rights, equalities and community cohesion issues relating to the topic being scrutinised. Furthermore, scrutiny work will also need to assess the implications of any recommendations made to Cabinet, including specific human rights, equalities and community cohesion implications.

8.   CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

8.1   In line with the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Police and Justice Act 2006, all Council departments must have regard to the impact of services on crime, including anti-social behaviour and drugs. Scrutiny review reports will therefore highlight any implications arising from the reviews relating to crime and disorder as necessary.

9.   RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

9.1   There are none specific to this report. Scrutiny work involves consideration of the risk management and health and safety issues relating to the topic being scrutinised. Furthermore, scrutiny work will also need to assess the implications of any recommendations made to Cabinet, including specific risk management and health and safety implications.

10.   APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

10.1   Appendix I – Selecting a Scrutiny Topic – criteria used at the workshop on 07 June 2022

11.   BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1   None

Note from the Healthier Communities and Older People Scrutiny Panel
Topic Selection discussion
07 June 2022

Present: Councillor Agatha Akyigyina (Chair), Councillor Jenifer Gould (Vice Chair), Councillor Susie Hicks, Dagmar Zeuner, Director of Public Health, John Morgan, Interim Director of Community and Housing, John Dimmer, Head of Strategy, Policy and Partnerships, Aadam Ahmed, Assistant Policy Officer.

Listed below are the topics which the Members in attendance at the topic selection workshop wanted to look at over the forthcoming year. This list does not include the statutory / long-standing items which appear at the Committee.

Topics

1. St Heliers Hospital

Comment: As the refurbishment is not planned to be completed until 2027 discussions focussed on scrutinising the provisions and services that are intended to run in the interim period. It was noted that this would fit well as part of a themed panel looking at Access to healthcare.

2. Wilson Development

Comment: The panel noted the comment on the initial summary document which cited delays to the project and thought that it would be beneficial to scrutinise this item. It was noted that this would fit well as part of a themed panel looking at access to healthcare.

3. Access to healthcare

Comment: The panel felt that it would be beneficial to look at this item given that it is wide-ranging and would allow for wide-ranging and constructive discussion on how residents are able to access different healthcare services. It was stated that Health on the High Street could be looked at within this topic. It was noted that this would fit well as part of a themed panel looking at access to healthcare.

4. Adult Social Care Reform

Comment: The panel agreed with the summary advice that it would be beneficial to receive an update on forthcoming legislation and its impact on policy direction. It was noted that elements of this could be linked to access.

5. Home Care redesign Recommissioning

Comment: The panel agreed with the summary advice that it would be beneficial to receive an update on the recommissioning process. Attention was drawn to the significant cost implications with recommissioning and the cross-cutting nature of the topic.

6. Discharge from acute settings

Comment: The panel felt that having a topic focussed on discharge arrangements would be useful, especially given the themed items on access.

7. Suicide prevention across all age groups

Comment: The panel decided that this item was best looked at as an item on the work programme as opposed to having a task group focus. The panel emphasised the importance of looking across all age groups, including children given that this was an area where not as much work has been done.

8. Mental Health Reforms

Comment: The panel agreed that it would be beneficial for Officers to present an overview of the reforms and the impact that this could have on Merton residents.

9. ICS Governance (SWL and Place) Arrangements

Comment: The panel agreed that this topic should be selected given the role and impact that Integrated Care Systems will have on services provided in Merton. In particular it was noted that it would be beneficial to see how the ICS links with the Health and Wellbeing Board.

10. Substance Misuse

Comment: The panel discussed the topic of substance misuse and agreed that it would be beneficial to see a report on the work being done around substance misuse in the borough.

11. Long-Covid and Post-Covid Support

Comment: The panel agreed that it would be beneficial for a report to be produced which looks at what is in place to support those living with Long-Covid and what support is there for residents who may need additional support with the transition to the post-covid world, particularly those who are considered vulnerable and those who are anxious about the impact of Covid-19.

Additional topic for consideration:

Air Quality

Comment: The panel noted that this was an item on the Sustainable Communities topic suggestion list and would welcome any collaboration on this item given that it cross-cuts between the two panels.

Task Group Focus

Topic: Support for People with Autism in the borough

Comment: The panel agreed that this was a topic of significant importance in the borough and officers noted that this work would be welcomed as there was acknowledgement that this was an area where further work was needed. It was noted that this topic could allow for collaboration with the Children and Young People Panel and the Healthcare Trust.

This page is intentionally left blank