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Thursday 6 April 2023

Notice of Meeting

Dear Member

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

The **Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee** will meet in the **Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield** at **2.00 pm** on **Tuesday 18 April 2023**.

This meeting will be live webcast. To access the webcast please go to the Council's website at the time of the meeting and follow the instructions on the page.

The items which will be discussed are described in the agenda and there are reports attached which give more details.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie Muscroft".

Julie Muscroft

Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning

Kirklees Council advocates openness and transparency as part of its democratic processes. Anyone wishing to record (film or audio) the public parts of the meeting should inform the Chair/Clerk of their intentions prior to the meeting.

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee members are:-

Member

Councillor Elizabeth Smaje (Chair)

Councillor Yusra Hussain

Councillor Andrew Marchington

Councillor Jackie Ramsay

Councillor John Taylor

Agenda

Reports or Explanatory Notes Attached

Pages

1: Membership of Committee

To receive apologies for absence of Members who are unable to attend the meeting.

2: Minutes of Previous Meeting

1 - 16

To approve the Minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 6th February and 7th March 2023.

3: Interests

17 - 18

The Councillors will be asked to say if there are any items on the Agenda in which they have disclosable pecuniary interests, which would prevent them from participating in any discussion of the items or participating in any vote upon the items, or any other interests.

4: Admission of the Public

Most debates take place in public. This only changes when there is a need to consider certain issues, for instance, commercially sensitive information or details concerning an individual. You will be told at this point whether there are any items on the Agenda which are to be discussed in private.

5: Deputations/Petitions

The Committee will receive any petitions and hear any deputations from members of the public. A deputation is where up to five people can attend the meeting and make a presentation on some particular issue of concern. A member of the public can also hand in a petition at the meeting but that petition should relate to something on which the body has powers and responsibilities.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10 (2), Members of the

Public should provide at least 24 hours' notice of presenting a deputation.

6: Scrutiny of Loneliness in Kirklees

19 - 22

A report will be submitted which provides an update on the progress of the work of the Committee in looking at the issue of loneliness in Kirklees.

Contact:

Sheila Dykes – Principal Governance and Democratic Engagement Officer.

7: Lead Members' Updates

23 - 32

The Lead Members for the Children's Scrutiny Panel and the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel will update the Committee on the work being undertaken by their panels.

Contact:

Sheila Dykes – Principal Governance and Democratic Engagement Officer.

8: Work Programme 2022/23 and 2023/24

33 - 46

The Committee will review its Work Programme for 2022/23 and look forward to 2023/24.

Contact:

Sheila Dykes – Principal Governance and Democratic Engagement Officer.

Contact Officer: Sheila Dykes

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Monday 6th February 2023

Present: Councillor Elizabeth Smaje (Chair)
Councillor Andrew Marchington
Councillor Jackie Ramsay
Councillor John Taylor

52 Membership of Committee

Apologies were received from Councillor Yusra Hussain.

**53 Minutes of Previous Meeting
Resolved –**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20th December 2022 be agreed as a correct record.

The Chair updated the Committee as follows:

The final report of the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel on Residential Housing Stock Health and Safety Compliance, including the completed Action Plan, had been considered by Cabinet on 21st December 2022.

The seventeen recommendations made by the Panel had been accepted, subject to the amendment of recommendation twelve to reflect monthly reporting on no-access properties, rather than weekly.

A progress report on the implementation of the Panel's recommendations would be submitted to the Committee during the 2023/24 municipal year.

54 Interests

In the interests of openness and transparency, Councillor Marchington noted that a relative was a member of 'Cycle Kirklees'.

55 Admission of the Public

All items were heard in public session.

56 Deputations/Petitions

A deputation was received, on behalf of Cycle Kirklees, raising issues in relation to the report on the Strategic Intelligence Assessment and Communities Partnership Plan, in particular to the spotlight on road safety. This included, the impact of the public perception of safety on levels of cycling and walking, the approaches to reducing speeding traffic, long-term planning to assist in reducing car use and creating a safer environment; and targets for modal shift associated with climate change.

57 Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

58 Leader's Priorities - Update

Councillor Shabir Pandor, the Leader of the Council, attended the meeting to give an update on his priorities for 2022-23. He was accompanied by Jacqui Gedman, the Chief Executive.

Councillor Pandor gave a presentation focussed on the following headings:

Economic Growth and Sustainability; building a strong economy to protect against future cost of living crises. This included moving forward with the plans to regenerate Huddersfield, Dewsbury and Batley town centres, along with plans for Cleckheaton, Heckmondwike and Holmfirth.

Inclusion and Diversity; ensuring action in relation to; the cost of living, including the Household Support Fund and the introduction of 'warm spaces'; support for young people to ensure no child gets left behind; and supporting older people and people with disabilities.

Cleaner, Greener, Safer; a Climate Change Action Plan was in place and the ambition was to be carbon neutral by 2028. A significant number of pothole repairs had been completed in 2022 and 99.7% bin collections achieved. Work had been successfully undertaken, in collaboration with West Yorkshire Police, to address issues of community safety.

Challenges for the next twelve months and beyond; including balancing the Council's budget and sustaining public services, the cost of living, the economy, pressures on health and social care, and climate change.

Questions and comments were invited from Committee Members, with the following issues being covered:

- In terms of work at a regional level, Councillor Pandor explained that he was the Chair of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority's (WYCA) Business, Economy and Innovation Committee, the remit of which was to support businesses throughout West Yorkshire.
- In response to a question about which priorities were specific to the Leader's portfolio, he explained that he considered that these were his priorities. The Cabinet had a collective responsibility and his role included ensuring that the budget was in place, lobbying for funding and supporting the Cabinet Members to deliver on all priorities.
- There was a desire for the authority to do what it could to support communities and ease the burden of the increases in the cost of living.
- In relation to supporting young people, concern about the lack of youth services was raised at ward level on a regular basis.
- The appropriate Cabinet Members would be able to provide a more specific update in respect of the work being undertaken to support young people in achieving their aspirations and ambitions. His aspirations included ensuring that every child was safeguarded, that provision for those with special needs and disabilities was good and that every child was given the best opportunities for a good start in life.

- The introduction of 'warm spaces' and the work undertaken to repair the district's roads was welcomed, although it was regrettable that there was need to fill potholes rather than being able to undertake resurfacing.
- In relation to the challenges of recruiting and retaining a stable workforce, particularly associated with lower paid roles, assurance was given that priority would be given to client-facing caring roles despite the budget pressures.
- The budget would be agreed in March and the work was in progress to ensure that the major regeneration projects and climate change work could continue within the tighter financial constraints, whilst still delivering public services and making the necessary savings.
- He had undertaken work, at national level, with the Local Government Association, an example of which was in respect of the exclusion of leisure centres from the grant to ease pressures associated with higher energy bills for energy intensive uses.
- He led discussions with the Cabinet, on a daily basis, and there were strong links with the Council's Executive Team. Consideration was being given to how savings could be made without putting services at risk and to ensure sustainability. Residents of the district would be consulted. Some of the Council's reserves would be utilised.
- Stability was very important; the Council's staff were valued and that there was a need to ensure that they were retained and supported.
- It was important that there was a broader view across the organisation and the work of partners to ensure that there was no duplication and that budgets were efficiently and effectively utilised.
- In terms of the work being undertaken at regional level and how the voice of Kirklees was being heard, work was in progress in respect of improvements to bus and train travel and lobbying was to be undertaken to achieve a model that worked, alongside the commitment to achieve the carbon zero target by 2038.
- The Council's Climate Change Action Plan had been approved by the Council and could be shared with members of the Committee.
- It was noted that the improvement of bus services needed to include reliable provision at sufficient frequency and timings to meet residents' needs; there were issues with affordability.
- The introduction of an integrated transport strategy for the north of England was needed and would be welcomed.

59 Domestic Abuse in Kirklees - Update

A report was submitted which provided a detailed update on activity to tackle domestic abuse in Kirklees, in line with the strategic aims and priorities of the 2022-2027 Domestic Abuse Strategy.

Jill Greenfield - Service Director Customer and Communities, Jo Richmond - Head of Communities and Chani Mortimer - Service Manager for Domestic Abuse were in attendance to present the report and answer questions.

Councillor Carole Pattison, the Cabinet Member for Learning, Aspiration and Communities was also present, as well as representatives of partner organisations:

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Inspector Catherine Shackleton - West Yorkshire Police, Gwen Clyde-Evans – West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, and Catherine McKenzie - Yorkshire Children's Centre (Perpetrators Programme).

It was explained that:

- The 2021 Domestic Abuse Act had introduced a new statutory requirement for local authorities to support victims of domestic abuse and their children in safe accommodation.
- Associated grant funding, in the region of £900,000 per annum, was expected to be available for the period 2021/22 to 2024/25.
- The necessary arrangements to meet the statutory requirements had been established.
- The Strategy had been endorsed by Cabinet on 17th January 2023 and the contribution of the Committee in its development was acknowledged.
- An overview of the delivery/outcomes to date in respect of each of the commitments in the strategy was included in the report.
- The Strategy was designed to encompass all domestic abuse related activity and included the stated priorities of:
 - A whole family approach to domestic abuse,
 - Supporting perpetrators to change behaviour,
 - Partnership response to victims with multiple needs and/or protected characteristics,
 - Supporting victims to maintain or access safe and stable housing,
 - Multi-agency working arrangements,with the focus being placed on activity under the first two within the first year.

Gwen Clyde-Evans explained the Integrated Care Board's approach and the work being done to identify victims, and children of victims, of domestic abuse through emergency departments and the work of the independent domestic abuse advocates. Work was also ongoing to increase the awareness and recognition of people who may have suffered trauma through experiencing, witnessing or perpetrating domestic abuse, to manage the associated risks and to identify services that could provide support to victims and perpetrators.

Catherine Shackleton explained the work being undertaken alongside the Domestic Abuse Community Engagement Team on a project which aimed to raise awareness of domestic abuse with people working in the hair and beauty industry, including providing advice on how to respond. A website was in development that would facilitate signposting to different support agencies. The Police were also involved with the 'Safezones' partnership initiative which aimed to establish places in the district where advice, support and help could be sought. Training had been provided to significant numbers of staff from different organisations to assist them in identifying domestic abuse and how to signpost people to appropriate support. Many businesses were engaged with the scheme and over 100 locations were now registered. Quarterly newsletters were circulated to maintain knowledge and awareness.

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Catherine McKenzie outlined a long-term partnership behaviour change programme that was being provided for perpetrators which included an aim to amplify the voices of children. A pilot scheme had included sharing the work of local children, that explored and expressed the impact of domestic abuse through the mediums of art and poems, with perpetrators and had proved to be a very powerful and positive element in helping to educate them on the impacts of domestic abuse. This was to be further expanded and delivered for the children of perpetrators.

Questions and comments were invited from Committee Members, with the following issues being covered:

- The work being undertaken across the partnership was evident and was very positive; the work around prevention with perpetrators and children was welcomed.
- In terms of the place-based approach, domestic abuse had been identified as a priority for the previous 'Place Partnerships' initiative and the associated funding had allowed the trial of a different approach to engaging with local communities. This approach had now shifted to a focus on the Primary Care Networks and there were good links with colleagues in health.
- The grant funding had been focussed on key areas such as the impact of domestic abuse on children and victims with complex needs. It had been utilised for a number of specialist support initiatives, the vast majority of provision being through third sector organisations. All work had been informed by a needs assessment undertaken in collaboration with partners.
- Benchmarking against other local authorities in respect of the conversion rate of calls made to the Police could be provided for Members.
- The significant increase in reports of coercive controlling behaviour was partly due to increased awareness of this crime
- The 'safezone' scheme was broader than the 'safe spaces' scheme, providing somewhere for anyone who felt unsafe to go and access support; and there was an awareness of the need to minimise any confusion between the two. All libraries had signed up to the safezone scheme and training would be offered to staff. Targeted work would be undertaken to widen the provision of safezones, particularly in the rural and Batley and Spen areas.
- The national recognition of the significant impact of domestic abuse on children and young people was welcomed and the project to share the voice of young people with perpetrators was interesting.
- It was now compulsory for schools to address the issues of the development of healthy and positive relationships with young people and to foster and encourage appropriate attitudes. There was a working group on healthy relationships group which focussed on these issues and positive work was being undertaken in the district's schools. The Community Engagement Team had worked on a pilot project at a school in Dewsbury and the aim was to train the Designated Safeguarding Leads within all high schools to deliver this. Consideration was also being given to a similar age-appropriate package for primary schools.

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- The Place Partnerships funding had provided the opportunity to prove the value of community interventions and had also highlighted the importance of community resilience. A new approach to commissioning was being developed to enable more effective use of resources and this would include consideration of funding for place-based, community-based work on domestic abuse. The learning from this work would also be shared with other teams such as Community Plus and build into the core service.
- The project with hair and beauty industry would include training on how to offer support and signpost in a discrete manner.
- There was a dedicated team working across all the hospital sites to identify individuals who may need support and significant work and training being undertaken to improve awareness across the wider workforce.
- It was queried whether this service was mirrored in adjacent trusts as constituents on the edge of the district may cross the borders to attend their nearest hospital.
- The key issue was considered to be having a workforce that was skilled to recognise domestic abuse and communicate/link back to GPs where appropriate.
- In response to a question to Yorkshire Children's Centre, about whether the level of need for the behaviour change programme was being met, it was explained that this was very difficult to assess. It had taken a while to build the momentum of referrals and engagement. One of the challenges was that individuals who took part had to be willing to engage, have accepted some accountability and be motivated to change.
- An established working group was proactively looking at the issues of sustainable and safe accommodation. Work was being undertaken alongside third sector partners to help people stay safe in their own homes. It was acknowledged that there were no easy solutions in respect of access to stable housing but best practice in other areas was being examined and discussions undertaken with partners.
- The timescales for the community engagement activity were included within the delivery plan, as recommended by the Committee in March 2022.

Councillor Pattison stressed the importance of this work and welcomed the additional funding that had facilitated additional work and the adoption of a more detailed approach in terms of early intervention, as well as supporting victims, their families and the wider community.

Resolved -

- (1) That the officers and representatives of partners be thanked for their presentations.
- (2) That it be noted that work is to be undertaken to widen the provision of 'safezones', particularly in the Rural and Batley and Spen areas.
- (3) That further information be provided for Members in relation to:
 - (a) benchmarking against other local authorities in respect of the incident/crime conversion rate for reports made to the Police; and
 - (b) the approach being taken on a wider scale, in terms of the adjacent NHS Trusts that Kirklees residents may access due to their location towards the edges of the district.

60 Kirklees Strategic Intelligence Assessment and the Communities Partnership Plan

A report was submitted which set out the findings emerging from the annual refresh of the Kirklees Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA), including a spotlight on road safety and serious violence.

Jill Greenfield - Service Director Customer and Communities, Jo Richmond - Head of Communities, Chris Walsh and Lee Hamilton – Safer Kirklees Managers and Jaqui Theaker – Data and Insight Enablement Lead were in attendance to present the report and answer questions.

Councillor Carole Pattison, the Cabinet Member for Learning, Aspiration and Communities was also present, as well as representatives of partner organisations; Superintendent Helen Brear from West Yorkshire Police and Chris Bell from West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue who was the Chair of the Road Safety Partnership Group.

It was explained that the refresh of the SIA was undertaken on an annual basis to ensure that the themes within the Partnership Plan remained valid and to highlight any exceptions, trends or potential areas for future focus. A full review was undertaken every three years.

The SIA was subject to discussion with partners and theme groups prior to being finalised. The recommendation was that the existing themes should be retained with a continued focus on the existing priorities listed below:

- Violence and Exploitation;
including implementation of the new Serious Violence Duty and the response to the West Yorkshire Violence against Women and Girls Strategy; prevention of young people becoming involved in Urban Street Gangs and a focus on understanding the levels of repeat incidents of domestic abuse.
- Neighbourhood Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour;
Including the development of the Action Plan to supplement the Police response through a place lens.
- Inclusive and Resilient Communities;
Including ensuring robust and supportive services to meet needs and mitigate impact in respect of migration and asylum and prevention work associated with hate crime,
- Reducing Risk;
Including the establishment of a partnership body to steer delivery and oversight of effective prevention, treatment, recovery and enforcement in relation to drugs.

The report included the key findings from the refresh of the SIA with a specific focus on road safety, as a top priority for local people in respect of community safety, and serious violence, which was a key priority for the partnership.

In respect of road safety, the focus was on reducing the numbers of people killed or seriously injured and improving the perceptions of road safety associated with speeding vehicles and inconsiderate or dangerous parking.

Chris Bell explained that the Partnership Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan aligned with the strategic aims of the Kirklees strategy and the Police and Crime Plan for West Yorkshire including 'Vision Zero' with the stated aim of reducing killed and seriously injured by 50% by 2030. Partners included Safer Kirklees, West Yorkshire Police, Highways, Health, the Safety Camera Partnership and Parking Enforcement and a range of different initiatives and engagement activity was being undertaken with local communities to reduce the risk and challenge the perceptions about the safety risk. A data-driven response was used to ensure that efforts and resources were focussed where they were most needed.

In respect of serious violence, the approach was based on prevention, early intervention, disruption and enforcement using data and intelligence to work with partners with a focus on identified wards.

Helen Brear assured the Committee that serious violence and road safety remained key priorities. Helen presented the statistics relevant to overall crime in the district, which included a reduction in the figures for incidents of serious violence and anti-social behaviour in Kirklees. There had been an increase in possession of weapons offences due to targeted activity.

She explained that the approach was intelligence-led policing involving collaborative and innovative working with partners and communities on specific projects and details were given of a number of initiatives that were yielding positive results.

In respect of road safety the aim was to produce a dataset intelligence document to inform the approach, along with consideration of national and regional good practice. The four main issues in terms of road safety were excessive speed, using a mobile phone whilst driving, driving without a seatbelt and drink driving.

Questions and comments were invited from Committee Members, with the following issues being covered:

Road Safety:

- Speeding was anti-social behaviour and should be recognised as such. Road safety was the issue that was consistently raised as a concern by residents. The Police online reporting system did not allow people to report speeding as a crime; this had been pointed out previously but not resolved. Superintendent Brear assured Members that road safety was a priority for West Yorkshire Police and undertook to consider and respond to the issue raised about reporting speeding via the website. She outlined other ways that issues could be reported, such as using the 101 telephone number and via the Neighbourhood Policing Teams. If a road safety problem was identified this would be dealt with by the police and partners through enforcement and education measures.
- As mentioned in the deputation, people's concerns about safety affects their willingness to walk and cycle. If analysis of the data gathered by devices to measure speed indicated that the 85th percentile speed was over the speed limit, then this was reality not perception.
- Work was undertaken with the Highways department and reference to traffic surveys to determine whether the issue was one of perception and would be followed-up by engagement with local communities about the findings.

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- It was queried how the data gathered from the Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) was used.
- Collisions and damage to property from vehicles, in a particular location, on a regular basis, indicated a road safety issue and increased risk. The understanding was that the data on non-injury incidents could be extracted but this would be confirmed and an update provided for the Committee.
- The Road Safety Partnership Group was developing an intelligence package that would provide a wider picture than just data on collisions.
- The data from the SIDs would be analysed by Highways and implementation of appropriate measures prioritised according to the level of risk across the district.
- Work was being undertaken at regional level to identify those areas in priority need of works, intervention and education.
- Those who travelled at excessive speed were in the minority but enforcement was needed.
- Although the numbers were small and were reducing the data indicated that almost half of those killed or seriously injured were cyclists and it was questioned what was being done to address this.
- Further detail was given in respect of the statistics involving cyclists. The police were working closely with partners on this issue including promoting awareness of the new legislation, which afforded greater safeguarding for cyclists, and undertaking enforcement.
- The good work being undertaken by the partnership was acknowledged.
- The triangulation of the information and data was important and welcomed as it may be that some communities were not raising road safety issues due to other concerns being more of a priority.

Serious Violence

- It was interesting to hear the statistics were reducing significantly as there were perceptions about the numbers of young people carrying of knives. Perception of the level of serious crime could impact on people's confidence to go out.
- In respect of the numbers of people in treatment associated with drugs and alcohol, this was a complex area. A Drugs and Alcohol Strategy was in development and local providers were making significant efforts to ensure that there were more accessible points for entry into services. There had been a period when access to treatment had become more difficult and the pandemic had impacted people's ability to access services. Treatment and recovery provision were being built up and there were strong links with the housing, domestic abuse and other teams.
- The reasons for young people becoming involved in gangs were complicated and there were many different factors. Engagement was being undertaken by partners, including the third sector, to capture the voices of young people and to aim to deliver the services that they say they need.
- The work being undertaken with schools was welcomed. Young people should be provided with information on how to report issues if they felt unsafe and then be part of the solution.
- The Police were working alongside the voluntary sector and education partners to build the trust needed to be able to better engage with young people.

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- In respect of the involvement of ward councillors, the Safer Kirklees briefings were a source of information for local councillors on the issues in the ward including those in respect of serious violence or road safety and provided a forum to allow discussion of the priorities and proposed actions in each area.
- The Road Safety Partnership aimed to involve all partners where possible including engagement in specific areas where appropriate.
- In terms of police activities funded by particular wards a report on outcomes would be provided to the local councillors and the local communities. Such tailored initiatives were available to any other wards in the district. There was a need to ensure that the results and learning from such initiatives were fed back to the partnership to take forward.
- The figures for serious violence for Kirklees indicated that it was a safe place and it was acknowledged that there was a need to improve upon positive communication to improve perceptions, in a sensitive manner, and to promote the positive work being undertaken.

Resolved -

- (1) That the officers and representatives of partners be thanked for their presentations.
- (2) That it be noted that the issue raised in respect of not being able to report speed using the West Yorkshire Police online crime reporting portal is to be considered and an update provided.
- (3) That it is recommended that the importance of working and engaging with Ward Councillors on issues in their areas be embraced by all parties.
- (4) That further information be provided for Members in relation to:
 - (i) the responses made/action taken in response to the data gathered from speed indication devices and how this is shared with partners.
 - (ii) how data in respect of collisions not involving injury is collated and utilised.

61 Lead Members' Updates

Councillor Andrew Marchington, the Lead Member for the Children's Scrutiny Panel updated the Committee on the work being undertaken by this Panel and Councillor Jackie Ramsey provided an update on the work of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel.

The updates were noted.

62 Work Programme 2022/23

The current version of the Committee's Work programme for 2022-23 was submitted for Members' consideration and was noted.

Contact Officer: Sheila Dykes

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday 7th March 2023

Present: Councillor Elizabeth Smaje (Chair)
Councillor Yusra Hussain
Councillor Andrew Marchington
Councillor Jackie Ramsay

63 Membership of Committee

Apologies were received from Councillor John Taylor.

64 Interests

In the interests of transparency, Councillor Hussain advised that she was employed by a Health Trust outside Kirklees.

65 Admission of the Public

All items were considered in public session.

66 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

67 Public Question Time

No questions were submitted.

68 Lead Councillors, Primary Care Networks and Local Health Improvement - Progress Report

A report was submitted which provided the Committee with a progress update on the work of the Lead Councillors - Primary Care Networks and Local Health Improvement.

Richard Parry, Strategic Director for Adults and Health and Emily Parry-Harries, Consultant in Public Health attended to present the report, including the following points:

- The background to the introduction of Primary Care Networks (PCN) in 2019, as a result of a national requirement.
- Each PCN should cover a population within the range of 30,000 and 50,000 people and had to make sense geographically.
- There were nine PCNs in Kirklees.
- One of the challenges associated with this piece of work was that the areas they covered did not align with Council wards.
- The Fuller Review, which had considered the progress to date, and direction of travel, for PCNs had emphasised the potential for the development of the community health function of primary care.

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- The Lead Councillor – PCNs and Local Health Care Improvement initiative aimed to help develop PCNs connections with the communities they served through establishing relationships between them and the Lead Councillor. This would allow them to take advantage of the reach and local knowledge of elected members and to benefit from their starting point of how and where people live their lives.
- It was noted that the relationships were at a relatively early stage, but it was anticipated that opportunities would be realised as they became better developed.

Questions and comments were invited from Committee Members, with the following issues being covered:

- Prior to the initiative being introduced, a number of conversations had taken place with the Director of Primary Care for the Clinical Commissioning Group (now the Health and Care Partnership). The initial concept had been to allow the working relationships to develop organically, although it was now recognised that a focus on specific outcomes would be beneficial in the early stages. A more prescriptive approach, using the relevant data packs, was now being taken with the Lead Councillors.
- In the early stages PCNs had been seen as an opportunity to connect GPs to the wider capacity within communities although subsequent national and NHS requirements had moved them in a different direction. The challenge was working out how best to connect and collaborate.
- It was questioned whether a public health specialist should undertake the role rather than an elected member, who may not have the detailed knowledge of the wider area covered by a PCN and was likely to have constraints on their time. In response it was explained that it was considered that there was a role for both; elected members brought a specific knowledge of their area and how to/what would work with the communities within.
- It was acknowledged that it would be beneficial to engage with members of the wider teams delivering primary care, such as health visitors, in respect of the wider wellbeing and inequalities agenda.
- Engagement with Practice Managers was also proving to be helpful.
- It appeared that the feedback and learning from Place Standard work was helpful.
- There was a need for communication and engagement with ward councillors on the priorities for the local areas, as had been undertaken through the Place Partnerships role; this would assist the Lead Members, giving them a stronger foundation for their discussions with the PCNs.
- Feedback had been sought from all nine Lead Members. Additional support was being provided to those who wanted it and a series of workshops was scheduled for May/June.
- There may be a need for the authority to consider how it wanted to be able to engage with and influence the PCNs as they developed into being the point of access to the healthcare system for most people.
- The levels of operational pressure on the individual PCNs could differ and could impact on the level to which they were able to engage externally.
- It was considered possible that the PCNs could have been better aligned with the district's wards/geography.

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- There was a need for the Council to be assured of the return on the time and investment and to be clear on the outcomes that there was a desire to achieve.
- A formal evaluation of the initiative should be undertaken, including what added value was being achieved.
- One of the challenges to be considered was how to blend the increasing organisational delivery structure of the PCNs with local variations and having a sensitivity to place.
- A focus on early intervention and prevention was considered to be key in addressing health inequalities.
- A range of people, across the partners, were involved in working out where outcomes were not being delivered or people were not being reached in terms of early intervention and prevention. They would work together to influence how the whole range of resources could be used bring about improvement. The approach might be different in the case of each PCN.
- Within a ward there could be a number of communities or sub-communities and there was a need to invest in roles at a very local level, to achieve the necessary level of understanding and have an impact.
- The importance of continuity in the new municipal year was stressed. Assurance was given that there would be stability in terms of the officers who would be supporting the Lead Members which would assist if anyone new was appointed to the role for 2023/24.

Resolved-

- (1) That, in undertaking their review of the role of the Lead Councillors – Primary Care Networks and Local Health Improvement, the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee be requested to give consideration to:
 - The need for a formal evaluation of the role to be undertaken, including outcomes achieved and an assessment of the added value.
 - The need for more prescriptive guidance/support for Councillors undertaking this role.
- (2) That the following issues be taken on board in progressing the Lead Councillors - Primary Care Networks and Local Health Improvement initiative:
 - The need for engagement with all relevant ward councillors, as this will aid the Lead Members in assessing priorities for their area and assist in their discussions with the PCNs.
 - The benefits of engagement with the wider teams involved with the delivery of primary care to further the place-based approach to improving health outcomes.
 - The importance of place and the need for work to take place at very local level to ensure effective understanding of the needs of an area and how to address them.
 - The importance of the focus on early intervention and prevention.
 - The need for partners to work together to understand how the whole range of resources can be used effectively within each PCN.

69

Flood Risk Management Update

A report was submitted which considered progress against the Action Plan of the Kirklees Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and set out the process for the development of the new strategy, which was due to be adopted in late 2023.

Councillor Graham Turner, Cabinet Member and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration was in attendance at the meeting introduced the report.

Rashid Mahmood – Flood Manager, Planning and Development and Chris Johnson, Operational Manager, Highways, attended the meeting to present the report and answer questions. The report:

- Summarised the work undertaken within the last twelve months and ongoing projects
- Set out the process and anticipated timescales in respect of the development and launch of a new Flood Risk Management Strategy.
- Provided information on the implementation of the new approach in relation to Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDs).
- Provided an update in relation to the issues that had been raised by the Committee when flood risk management had last been considered.

The Committee also welcomed representatives of partners;

- Matt Snelling, on behalf of the White Rose Forest project, who gave an overview of the Landscapes for Water programme which was a local authority based joint venture to support tree planting across West and North Yorkshire, funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and aligned with the national England's Community Forests initiative. He explained that, the creation of woodland in targeted areas would provide significant natural flood management benefits and mitigate flood risk, and provided details on a number of specific projects.
- Rosie Holdsworth, from the National Trust, in relation to the Growing Resilience Natural Flood Management and Woodland Creation Project. This was a partnership project, led by Yorkshire Water and the National Trust, which aimed to reduce flood risk to downstream communities, through use of natural flood management solutions and sustainable drainage interventions, along with landscape restoration. The project had included community engagement, to raise awareness of the benefits of natural flood management, and volunteers had made a significant contribution to delivery. It also aimed to understand the impacts of the interventions and to share that learning.

Questions and comments were invited from Committee Members, with the following issues being covered:

- The engagement to establish community flood plans that would be owned by the local community, with support from officers, was at an early stage. Leads for five areas had been secured.
- The partners included the National Trust, Yorkshire Water, Woodlands Trust Moorlands for the Future and the Environment Agency.
- 'Green Streets' was the urban work undertaken by the White Rose Forest and, in Kirklees, this was undertaken alongside officers from Highways and Streetscene. These schemes came with 15 year funding to support delivery of planting and maintenance.

- The National Trust worked in close partnership with a wide range of strategic organisations such as Kirklees, other local authorities, West Yorkshire Combined Authority, Yorkshire Water, the Woodland Trust, the Environment Agency and Natural England as well as a number of smaller community groups and volunteers. There were also strong relationships with the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service and the Police in respect of issues such as moorland fires.
- The partnership working across a wide range of organisations was appreciated.
- The engagement with local communities and the building of resilience was welcomed but it was important that the community flood wardens were an addition to the current services not a replacement.
- Property flood resilience was one element of this and grants could be offered to householders to undertake improvements to their properties.
- The work being undertaken by the White Rose Forest and the National Trust, alongside partners, was excellent.
- In terms of the ongoing need to maintain the interventions, it was explained that they were designed so that relatively little, or no, maintenance would be needed, but the National Trust had a dedicated team of staff who, together with volunteers, were working to restore the moorland and ongoing maintenance and repairs would form part of that work.
- The Council was to commence a district-wide study to identify opportunities for further natural flood management interventions to be undertaken.
- It was hoped that agri-environment schemes would incentivise other landowners to take such schemes forward in the future.
- The woodland creation used UK native species that were specifically chosen, further to extensive surveys and design work, to be suitable for the site/area concerned.
- Assessing the impact of the intervention works on the water downstream and in reducing flooding was not straightforward. There were models that could try to recreate the situation, but this was a work in progress. A significant amount of research was ongoing to understand this better and work was being done with the University. The National Trust were also monitoring impacts. It was known that these interventions worked but quantifying the results was more difficult.

Resolved –

- (1) That the representatives of the White Rose Forest and the National Trust be thanked for attending the Committee and for their interesting and informative presentations on the ongoing work in relation to natural flood management.
- (2) That the strong partnership working arrangements be welcomed.
- (3) That the new Flood Risk Management Strategy be submitted to the Committee for pre-decision scrutiny in advance of it being presented to Cabinet.

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Lead Members' Updates

Councillor Yusra Hussain, the Lead Member for the Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel, updated the Committee on the work being undertaken by this Panel, and an update on the work of the Corporate Scrutiny Panel was submitted on behalf of Councillor John Taylor, the Lead Member.

The updates were noted.

71 Work Programme 2022/23

The current version of the Committee's Work programme for 2022-23 was submitted for Members' consideration and was noted.

KIRKLEES COUNCIL				
COUNCIL/CABINET/COMMITTEE MEETINGS ETC				
DECLARATION OF INTERESTS				
Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee				
Name of Councillor				
Item in which you have an interest	Type of interest (eg a disclosable pecuniary interest or an “Other Interest”)	Does the nature of the interest require you to withdraw from the meeting while the item in which you have an interest is under consideration? [Y/N]	Brief description of your interest	

Signed: Dated:

NOTES

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

If you have any of the following pecuniary interests, they are your disclosable pecuniary interests under the new national rules. Any reference to spouse or civil partner includes any person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or as if they were your civil partner.

Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain, which you, or your spouse or civil partner, undertakes.

Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from your council or authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses.

Any contract which is made between you, or your spouse or your civil partner (or a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest) and your council or authority -

- under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and
- which has not been fully discharged.

Any beneficial interest in land which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, have and which is within the area of your council or authority.

Any licence (alone or jointly with others) which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, holds to occupy land in the area of your council or authority for a month or longer.

Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) - the landlord is your council or authority; and the tenant is a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest.

Any beneficial interest which you, or your spouse or your civil partner has in securities of a body where -

- (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of your council or authority; and
- (b) either -

the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or

if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

Name of Meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Date: 18th April 2023

Title: Update on Scrutiny of Loneliness

To provide an update on the progress of the work of the Committee in looking at the issue of loneliness in Kirklees.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Not Applicable
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)</u> ?	Not Applicable
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Not Applicable
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Not Applicable
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services?	Not Applicable
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?	
Cabinet member portfolio	Councillor Musarrat Khan – Health and Social Care

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: Not applicable

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? No personal information included.

1. Summary

This report provides an update on the work being undertaken by the Committee to scrutinise the issue of loneliness in Kirklees.

2. Information

2.1 In April 2022 the Committee agreed to undertake a piece of work in respect of loneliness in Kirklees pre and post-pandemic.

2.2 The scope for this work was established at the meeting of the Committee held on 26th July 2022, as set out below:

- What is the relevant national and local research evidence on the prevalence of loneliness prior to the Covid- 19 pandemic and since the Covid-19 pandemic?
- What work has been carried out to date to address loneliness in Kirklees?
- What factors such as social isolation and other issues contribute towards loneliness and how have they changed during the pandemic?
- In light of the changes brought about by the pandemic, what are the protective factors, actions or interventions needed now? In the future?
- What are the key challenges to enabling meaningful social connection for people who are experiencing loneliness in Kirklees following the Covid-19 pandemic? How could responses to the challenges be developed or improved?
- How are Councillors/Officers/ services within the council identifying loneliness, offering support and signposting? Are there any plans in place to develop this? How could this be improved?
- How can ward Councillors and scrutiny further support this work go going forward?
- How are partners currently identifying loneliness, offering support and signposting? Are there any plans in place to develop this? How could this be improved?

2.3 Throughout 2022/23, the Committee held a number of formal and informal sessions to gather evidence, as follows:

- 4th October 2022 - The Committee considered the role of the Partnership Loneliness Steering Group
- 20th December 2022 - A discussion about how best to develop local responses to identifying, signposting, and referring people who are lonely or isolated and how loneliness could be 'made everyone's business'.
The discussion included consideration of the staff guidance document 'Conversations on Loneliness Guidance'. This had been shared with staff at the start of the pandemic and aimed to encourage and assist them to identify people who may be experiencing loneliness, through their normal interactions, and to be able to signpost them to appropriate support.

Members engaged with the following teams and partner organisations:

- Kirklees Partners' Loneliness Steering Group.
- Local Integrated Partnerships.
- Local Area Co-ordination.
- Public Health.
- Community Plus.
- The Council's Wellness Service.
- Luv2MeetU – a charity which operates on a national basis and organises events for small groups of people with learning disabilities or autism to address issues associated with independence and/or loneliness.

- Yorkshire Children's Centre – a local charity which takes a lead on the befriending partnership work in Kirklees.
- Age UK (Kirklees and Calderdale).
- Yorkshire Children's Centre.
- The Carer's Trust Mid Yorkshire – a local charity working to support unpaid family carers.
- Carer's Count - a not for profit organisation that supports unpaid carers within Kirklees.

and visited the following groups to discuss the issues with service users:

- Long Covid Support Group - one of two support groups run by the Council's Wellness Service based at Batley Town Hall.
- Young Onset Dementia Support Group – led by volunteers through Yorkshire Children's Centre.
- Carer's Count at two locations in North and South Kirklees
- Carer's Trust Listening Group.

3. Implications for the Council

Not applicable to this report at this stage.

4. Consultees and their opinions

As detailed above.

5. Next steps and timelines

The Committee will give consideration to the terms of reference and will decide what additional work it wishes to undertake prior to giving consideration to any recommendations it may wish to put forward.

It is anticipated that a outcomes report will be submitted to the Committee in the early part of the next municipal year.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

That the ongoing work of the Committee and the approach set out in paragraph 5 be endorsed.

7. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

Not applicable.

8. Contact officer

Sheila Dykes, Principal Governance & Democratic Engagement Officer
01484 221000 E-mail: sheila.dykes@kirklees.gov.uk

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

-

10. Service Director responsible

Julie Muscroft, Service Director, Legal Governance and Monitoring

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Scrutiny Lead Member Report

Lead Member: Cllr Andrew Marchington : Children's Scrutiny Panel

Period of Update : From January to March 2023

Panel Highlights

Bi-monthly Lead member briefings with:

Senior Officers in Children's Services

- Service Director – Learning and Early Support
- Service Director – Resources Improvement and Partnerships
- Service Director – Family Support and Child Protection
- Strategic Director for Children's Services

Cabinet Members

- Children (Statutory responsibility for Children)
- Learning, Aspiration and Communities

Panel Activity and meetings -

- Panel meeting on 23rd January 2023 – Budget process for Children's Services
- Panel meeting on 20th March 2023 – Stable homes built on love, Exclusions and Suspensions in Kirklees Schools, Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health provision for Children & Young People in Kirklees
- Visits to –
 - Educational Outcomes Committee on 10th January 2023
 - Quality Assurance Panel on 17th January 2023
 - Child Protection Team on 19th January 2023
 - Mental Health in School's Team at Lowerhouses Children's Centre and Hillside Primary School (Newsome) on 21st February 2023
 - Weekly Referral and Review meeting on 27th March 2023

Outcomes:

Budget Process for Children's Services

In January 2023, the Panel considered a verbal report from Mel Meggs, Director of Children's Services, on the proposals of the budget for the Council and Children's Services, which was being prepared for 2023/24. The key issues highlighted were –

- There were some significant gaps in the amount of money Kirklees had to spend, versus the amount of money Kirklees had planned to spend.
- The Council had imposed an overall recruitment freeze where a People Panel had been set up to decide upon requests to recruit. The focus in children's services was that front line staff services could keep going, and to a high standard, and in certain roles, where possible recruitment should be

delayed.

- There had also been changes around buildings used, and how staff were deployed.
- The priority for savings and investment was around growth and demand, for example SEND. There was an increase in demand and costs in school transport. The aim was to ensure that there were no barriers for youngsters attending school, therefore a proposed uplift into school transport had been put forward.

Mel Meggs advised the Panel on the saving proposals for 2024, which focused on prioritising front line services ensuring there was early help. There were proposals on how things could be done differently, including different ways of working, integrating work within teams, and identifying funding streams and investing to save, for example providing sufficient homes for children where they needed to go into care or children with special education needs.

The Panel agreed that a report on budget proposals for the Children's Service would be presented to a future Panel meeting post publication.

Stable homes built with love

In March 2023, the Panel considered a report providing an update on the Government's response in February 2023 to the McCallister, National Care Review which was published in May 2022.

Vicky Metheringham, Service Director for Child Protection and Family Support explained that on 2nd February 2023, the Department for Education (DfE) issued its response to the Independent Review of Children's Social Care, the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel's inquiry into the murders of two children and the Competition and Markets Authority's study of the children's social care market in three consultation documents. The consultations closed on 11th May 2023 and the outcome would inform future planning within Children's Services at both a Local and National level.

In response to the McCallister report of 2022, the DfE set out an initial response for addressing a range of issues that impacted children's Social Care Services. The key areas covered as part of the consultation period were outlined in the report.

Exclusions and Suspensions in Kirklees Schools

In March 2023, the Panel considered a report on the current context around exclusions and suspensions in Kirklees and planned actions to support work in reducing these.

There had been an increase in permanent exclusions and suspensions across Kirklees which applied mainly to boys and secondary schools. The main reason for exclusion and suspensions was around persistent disruptive behaviour. Reducing exclusions and suspensions in Kirklees was a priority, with both the SEND transformation plan and the 'Our Kirklees future learning strategy' outline a number of key actions underway. There was a need to refresh the approach to identify and support the needs of children and young people at a much earlier stage. Projects were being implemented to develop specialist placements across the alternative

provisions sector and wider special educational needs and disabilities sector along with training, learning and upskilling.

The Panel asked for further information on the proportion of schools that were primary academies compared to secondary academies and agreed to consider a future report on how progress is measured on the cultural change towards supporting schools in developing a trauma informed approach.

Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health provision for children and young people in Kirklees

In March 2023, the Panel considered a report describing currently commissioned emotional wellbeing and mental health services, including recent developments, and outlined challenges currently being faced.

Following the Covid pandemic there have been effects on Children's Emotional Health and Wellbeing. Early years provisions, education, schools, colleges and activities were disrupted, leaving them without their usual support networks and social contact. Some children thrived in the home learning environment, particularly where going to school contributed to anxiety, but many suffered from isolation and loneliness. The youngest children lived through the pandemic at a vital time in their development, missing out on important learning and social experiences, which for some have had a significant impact upon speech, language and communication skills, as well as socialisation and regulation. Schools and early years settings are reporting that some children are less well prepared for school than in previous years. In common with other areas, in Kirklees there has been rising demand for all mental health, learning disability and autism services. This demand is extremely challenging to address, due to the current financial situation and workforce availability. The report introduced proposed developments for services and gave the current waiting list figures for each service area.

The Panel fed back on their visit to the Mental Health in School's Team and had witnessed some really good partnership working between South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Kirklees Council Educational Psychology and Northorpe Hall Trust. The Panel also visited Hillside Primary School and had found it interesting to hear some of the anxieties from year 6 children about their transition to year 7 at secondary school.

The Panel agreed to receive future information regarding the fluctuation in the waiting times and trends for children's emotional health and wellbeing.

Partnership Visits:

Child Protection Team

On the 19th January 2023, the Panel visited the Child Protection Team at Civic Centre 3, Huddersfield and met with staff and Team Managers and asked questions around caseloads and recruitment, data collection, partnership working, voice of the young person, delivery of quality services and good practice and learning points.

The Panel agreed to investigate the following actions –

- Lack of rooms and meeting space in Civic 3 to hold staff meetings and places to assess and meet with families;
- Special guardianships which have ended because they can no longer look after

the child and unsuccessful adoptions which has meant more children coming back into care. The Panel agreed to raise at Corporate Parenting Board.

- Working relationship barriers between Child Protection and Safer Kirklees and how these could be strengthened.
- The relationship between Child Protection and the police and use of police powers which could sometimes conflict against the processes of the child protection team and impact significantly on the child when decisions were made by the police which the social care team do not agree with and which do not meet the social care threshold.

Mental Health in School's Team

On the 21st February 2023, the Panel visited the Mental Health in School's Team (MHST) at Lowerhouses Children's Centre and met with staff and Team Managers from the three key partners which were South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Kirklees Council Educational Psychology and Northorpe Hall Trust. The Panel were given a presentation and taken through a resume of the work undertaken by the key partners and handed an information pack. The MHST service has 3 core functions –

- To deliver evidence based interventions for children and young people with mild to moderate mental health problems;
- Supporting the senior mental health lead in each school or college to introduce or develop their whole school or college approach;
- Offering timely advice to school and college staff and liaise with external specialist services to help children and young people to get the right support and stay in education

The Panel also visited the Hillside Primary School at Newsome and observed an emotional wellbeing session run by a colleague from the MHST service for a group of year 6 children. The Theme of the session was around “do you worry?”.

Weekly Referral and Review meeting (Child Protection)

The Panel visited and observed the meeting held on the 27th March 2023 where officers from Children's Service, Health and Education looked in detail at a number of individual cases to review the history, key elements of the case and the decisions taken. In some cases further action was agreed to follow up on individual cases.

Looking Ahead

The Panel will meet in June 2023 to hold a workshop with Senior Officers and Cabinet Members for Learning Children (Statutory responsibility for Children) and Learning, Aspiration and Communities to discuss the potential key areas of focus for their work programme during the 2023/24 municipal year.

A number of visits and areas of work which are not yet complete may be carried forward into the new municipal year.

General Comments

We continue to see those working with and for young people scrutinising the work that they undertake to ensure the best outcomes possible. Partners continue to open up their professional judgements to the view of others to make sure that the right decisions are being made.

It is a concern that in some areas of children's work recruitment is an issue, which is leading to increased workloads. This is being carefully managed but needs constant monitoring.

It was a pleasure to visit the Mental Health Support Team to talk about and observe some of the things that they do to improve and support children and young people's wellbeing. It was great to be able to participate in a session at a local primary school where some year 6 pupils explored potential anxieties around the transition to high school.

Once again, I extend the thanks of the panel for everyone's conscientious work and for the warm welcome we have received and openness in our discussions, in particular I would like to thank Cllr Paul White for his contributions over that last four years as a member of the panel as he retires from the Council.

Cllr Andrew Marchington
Lead Member for Children's Scrutiny Panel

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Scrutiny Lead Member Report

Lead Member: Cllr Jackie Ramsay

Panel: Health and Adult Social Care

Period of Update: From: January 2023 - March 2023

Panel Highlights

During the reporting period the Lead Member has had briefings with a number of key contacts from across the local health and adult social care system including:

- Richard Parry – Strategic Director for Adults and Health.
- Amanda Evans - Service Director Kirklees Council Adult Social Care Operations
- Catherine Riley - Associate Director of Strategy, Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust (CHFT).
- Diane Tinker - Director of Midwifery and Women's services, CHFT.
- Vicky Dutchburn - Director of Operational Delivery & Performance. Kirklees Health and Care Partnership

Panel Meeting – 25 January 2023

Inequalities in Access to Health care Services

Representatives from Kirklees Public Health, Kirklees Health and Care Partnership and a selection of providers from the local health and care system attended the meeting to discuss inequalities in accessing health care services in Kirklees.

The discussions highlighted a number of factors that included: the need to do more in promoting the range of services and support available to local communities; the importance of tackling the wider issues that impacted on poverty; and the importance of encouraging the uptake of health checks and screening programmes in the more deprived communities of Kirklees.

Palliative and End of Life Care

Representatives from the Kirklees Palliative Care Partnership presented an outline of the work that was being done to provide an integrated package of palliative and end of life care in Kirklees.

There were a number of areas discussed that included: the role of councillors in helping to influence and advocate the work of the Partnership; the bereavement support provided to family carers; the increases in demand for palliative care; and the work that had been undertaken by the Partnership to provide additional services.

Work programme 2022/23

It was confirmed that the March meeting would include items covering dentistry in Kirklees and an in depth look at adult social care community provision and domiciliary care.

Panel visit to Calderdale Royal Hospital (CRH) Birthing Unit and Labour Ward – 16 February 2023

As part of their review into maternity services in Kirklees panel members visited CRH to have a tour of the Birthing Unit and Labour Ward and to receive a presentation on CHFT maternity services that included an update on service developments.

Panel Meeting – 1 March 2023

Adult Social Care - Community Provision in Kirklees

Representatives from Kirklees Adult Social Care and the Kirklees Care Association attended and presented details of the work being done in the provision of domiciliary care, care homes and intermediate care in Kirklees.

The discussions covered a number of issues that included: the challenges facing the recruitment and retention of the workforce in adult social care; the national problem of rates of pay for the social care workforce; and the challenges associated with the increased demand for social care services and complexity of service user's needs.

Dentistry in Kirklees

Representatives from NHS England, Public Health, Locala and the Kirklees Local Dental Committee were in attendance to discuss dentistry in Kirklees.

A number of issues were discussed that included: the position of Orthodontic services in Kirklees; an update on the Oral Health Needs Assessment for the Yorkshire region; the challenges in accessing an NHS Dentist; delays in accessing hospital dental extractions for children and young people; the work undertaken by Locala in providing Community Dental Services; and the transfer of commissioning responsibilities from NHS England to West Yorkshire ICB

Outcomes:

Inequalities in Access to Health care Services

The Panel had a full and frank discussion that included a number of concerns that were highlighted and addressed that included: the importance of the role of the voluntary sector in helping to support vulnerable and elderly people who had been discharged from hospital to avoid unnecessary readmission; the need to promote health services and support available to local communities; the important role of community champions in engaging with their local population; the importance of the NHS screening programmes; and the need to build on the success of screening campaigns that had focused on increasing uptake in the more deprived communities of Kirklees.

Palliative and End of Life Care

The Panel noted the good practice of the work of the Partnership and agreed that palliative and end of life care should remain a key priority within the Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Panel visit to CRH Birthing Unit and Labour Ward

Following the visit panel members discussed their findings that included further concerns relating to the intermittent closure of the CRH Birthing Unit due to staff shortages. The Panel agreed that it still had concerns regarding the lack of access for women living in Kirklees to a birthing facility located in their local district. The Panel also highlighted concerns regarding the equality of access for Kirklees parents who had to travel further than they would have if a service was still available at Huddersfield and the impact on those families who relied on public transport. The Panel concluded that taking account of the length of time that the Birthing Units in Huddersfield and Dewsbury had been closed it had no alternative but to recognise that a substantial change to service had taken place that the public should, retrospectively, be consulted on.

A further letter outlining these concerns and seeking information on an indicative timeline for the reintroduction of the midwife led birth centre(s) in Kirklees and an outline of the proposed service model has been sent to the Chief Executives of Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust and Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust.

Dentistry in Kirklees

The Panel agreed that it would write to Locala who manage the waiting list and CHFT and MYHT who provide access to General Anaesthetics outlining its concerns in delays in accessing hospital dental extractions for children and young people. The Panel also agreed that following the transfer of the commissioning of dental services to the West Yorks Integrated Care Board (WYICB) that representatives of WYICB should be invited to attend a future Panel meeting to discuss inequality in access to dentists and its response to the delays in hospital dental extractions for children and young people.

Monitoring Work

(If monitoring previous recommendations please identify what difference Scrutiny has made)
N/A

Looking Ahead

The April meeting will include:

- A presentation of the Kirklees Safeguarding Adults Board (KSAB) 2021/22 Annual Report.
- A review of the 2022/23 Work programme

A recent Lead Member briefing with the Kirklees Health and Care Partnership included high level details of plans to transform Older People's Mental Health Inpatient services. The proposals will impact three local authorities in West Yorkshire – Kirklees, Wakefield and Calderdale. The proposals are likely to be considered a substantial change to service which may lead to the requirement to establish a mandatory Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Kirklees Health and Care Partnership will be forwarding further details and these will be circulated to the wider Panel and discussed at a future meeting.

The Panel will continue to monitor the position of maternity services in Kirklees.

General comments

Its clear that Health and Adult Social Care are struggling nationally as well as locally, it has been a difficult winter. The big issues remain the same i.e., lack of resources both money and workforce. This is leading to inefficient, and at times poor quality, care as patients are unable to be seen at the right time, in the right place, by the right person.

The issue regarding the lack of provision for babies to be born in Kirklees remains and a second letter to the Trusts (MYHT & CHFT) has been sent. It is understood, by the panel, that the midwifery vacancies have compromised the ability to reopen the birthing centres, but it is disappointing that neither an action plan or timeline has been provided and the panel believe it is a significant change in service provision.

A new concern in relation to the long waits by children for dental extraction under

General Anaesthetic is of concern to the panel and a letter to the CEOs of Locala, who hold the waiting list, and MYHT & CHFT, who provide theatre time and anaesthetic cover, has been sent to see if there is anything that can be done to resolve this issue.



Name of meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Date: 18 April 2023

Title of report: Review of 2022/23 Work Programme and Look Forward to 2023/34

Purpose of report

To review the Committee's Work Programme for 2022/23 including, identifying areas of work that have been completed; those that need to be carried forward to next year; those that need to be monitored; and to consider any potential areas for scrutiny during 2023/24.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	N/A
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	No
Date signed off by Strategic Director & name Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services? Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?	No – The report has been produced for information only.
Cabinet member portfolio	Leader of Council / All

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: Not applicable

Public or private: Public

1. **Summary**
 - 1.1 The Committee is asked to reflect on the work it has undertaken during the municipal year including, identifying where work has been completed and highlighting those issues that remain ongoing, continue to be a priority and need to be carried forward to next year.
 - 1.2 A copy of the Panel's Work Programme, containing details of the work undertaken, is attached at **Appendix 1**.
 - 1.3 **Looking Forward to 2023/24**
 - 1.4 In addition to identifying those issues to be carried forward from the current work programme, Members are also asked to identify any additional issues that they would wish to propose for consideration for inclusion in the work programme for 2023/24.
 - 1.5 In order to assist the shortlisting and prioritising process undertaken by scrutiny, it is important that Members identify the remit of the proposed issue, the value that scrutiny would add by being involved, and why this should be a priority for scrutiny over the next twelve months.
2. **Information required to take a decision**
Not applicable
3. **Implications for the Council**
Not applicable
4. **Consultees and their opinions**
Not applicable
5. **Next steps and timelines**
The Committee will hold a Planning Workshop in early June 2023 to discuss and finalise its initial Work Programme for 2023/24.
6. **Officer recommendations and reasons**
 1. The Panel is asked to review its Work Programme to identify where work has been completed and to highlight those issues that remain ongoing and need to be carried forward to next year.
 2. The Panel is asked to identify any issues that it wishes to consider for inclusion in the scrutiny work programme for 2023/24.
7. **Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations**
N/A
8. **Contact officer**
Sheila Dykes, Principal Governance and Democratic Engagement Officer
9. **Background Papers and History of Decisions**
N/A
10. **Service Director responsible**
Julie Muscroft Service Director: Legal, Governance & Commissioning

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23

MEMBERS: Councillors; Elizabeth Smaje (Chair), Yusra Hussain, Andrew Marchington, Jackie Ramsay and John Taylor

SUPPORT: Sheila Dykes, Principal Governance and Democratic Engagement Officer

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION		
THEME / ISSUE	APPROACH / AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES / ACTIONS
1. Leader's Priorities 2021/22	The Leader will attend to set out his portfolio priorities for 2022/23	<u>26th July 2022</u> The Leader attended to present his priorities for 22/23 and answer questions. <u>6th February 2023</u> The Leader attended to give an update and answer questions.
2. Inclusion and Diversity	Monitor work in relation to inclusion; including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inclusion and Diversity Strategy (Current Strategy 2022-23. <i>Cabinet endorsed 14/12/21, Council approved 16/3/22</i>) - Inclusion and Diversity Annual Report 	<u>15th June 2021</u> <u>Informal -25th November 2021</u> <u>15th March 2022</u> – update provided <u>Informal – 1st November 2022</u> – I&D Draft Annual Report
3. Inclusive Communities Framework	Scrutiny of the implementation of the Inclusive Communities Framework. <i>(Framework approved by Cabinet 5th July, Council 13th July 2022)</i>	<u>15th June 2021</u> Further reports to be submitted as the work progresses. <u>Informal – 3rd February 2022</u> Initial discussion on objectives and purpose. <u>28th June 2022</u> Pre-decision scrutiny. Committee requested that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The implementation plan be brought to the Committee for consideration at an early stage. - The points raised by the Committee, be taken into account in the progression, and implementation, of the framework and that Council be made aware of the Committee's views, as set out below, when the plan is submitted for endorsement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of the role of Councillors as representatives of their communities. <div style="text-align: right;">continued...</div>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need for realistic expectations, such as in respect of community input to decision-making. • The use of accessible and clear language. • The provision of a balance of stories. • Reference to all of the engagement undertaken. • The need for a focus on action as a key element. <p><u>1st November 2022</u> Overview of the Council's plans for implementation and a response to the issues raised by the Committee. Committee recommended that the following issues be taken on board in taking the work on the Inclusive Communities Framework forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The integral role of ward councillors due to their position at the heart of the organisation and their unique position within local communities. • The importance of the Place Standard approach and listening to the voices and experiences of communities. • Consideration be given to broadening representation on the Communities Board. • The importance of monitoring of action plans to allow any issues with progress to be addressed, to learn from good practice and to assess impact and outcomes.
4. Our Council Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-decision scrutiny in respect of the development of the latest version of the Council Plan • Progress reporting to include reporting against the 2019 Peer Challenge. 	<p><u>3rd August 2021</u> - further information in respect of how the citizen's outcome will be measured be provided, once the work has been further developed.</p> <p><u>28th September 2021</u> – update provided</p> <p><u>Informal – 4th October 2022</u> – Approach to the development of the latest Council Plan.</p>

<p>5. Kirklees Communities Partnership Plan (Crime and Disorder) and Domestic Abuse Strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual scrutiny of the Kirklees Communities Partnership Plan in accordance with statutory requirement under Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006. (Community Safety Partnerships have a duty to develop a strategic plan to address multi-agency issues affecting quality of life for residents including crime and anti-social behaviour.) <p>2022 – 2027 Plan endorsed by Cabinet 21.9.22 and adopted by Council 12.10.22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kirklees Domestic Abuse Strategy – annual review. (Current strategy 2022 to 2027). 	<p>Results of the ‘Your Views’ survey to be circulated to Elected Members</p> <p><u>15th March 2022</u> Pre-decision scrutiny of the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-27. It was recommended that timescales be established for the community engagement activity around raising awareness of what is classed as abuse and its impact, and building confidence in reporting, and that officers be asked to ensure that this work is included in the delivery plan(s).</p> <p><u>28th June 2022</u> Update re DA Strat + Pre-decision scrutiny of Partnership Plan for 2022-2027. Recommended that the points raised by the Committee be taken into account in the progression, and implementation, of the Communities Partnership Plan and that Council be made aware of the Committee’s views, as set out below, when the plan is submitted for endorsement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Councillors, as representatives of their communities, should be involved in the development of the Communities Partnership Plan. - There should be a greater focus on speeding and road safety, to reflect the concern of residents. - The importance of listening to both sides when addressing neighbour disputes. - Outcomes and examples of good practice should be publicised. <p><u>4th October 2022</u> Update - the Communities Partnership Plan 2022-2027 had been endorsed by Cabinet on 21st September.</p> <p>continued....</p>
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1st November 2022

Update – the CPP 2022-2027 had been adopted by Council, on 12 October 2022.

6th February 2023Domestic Abuse Update

- Noted that work is to be undertaken to widen the provision of 'safezones', particularly in the Rural and Batley and Spen areas.
- Further information requested in relation to:
 - (a) benchmarking against other local authorities in respect of the incident/crime conversion rate for reports made to the Police; and
 - (b) the approach being taken on a wider scale, in terms of the adjacent NHS Trusts that Kirklees residents may access due to their location towards the edges of the district.

Strategic Impact Assessment

- Noted that the issue raised in respect of not being able to report speed via the West Yorkshire Police online crime reporting is to be considered and an update provided.
- Recommended that the importance of working and engaging with Ward Councillors on issues in their areas be embraced by all parties.
- Further information requested in relation to the responses made/action taken in response to the data gathered from speed indication devices and how this is shared with partners.

6. Corporate Safeguarding Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Policy (<i>adopted by Cabinet 8th March 2022, Council 13th July 2022</i>) Report following the rollout of the refreshed policy, to include an update on how it has worked in practice, the outputs, and feedback in respect of the training. Policy due for full formal review in 2025, with annual informal review annually. 	<u>3rd February 2022</u> Pre-decision scrutiny of Policy <u>15th March 2022</u> – update provided
7. Local Flood Risk Management	Annual Review of the Council's Flood Risk Management Plan including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress against the Action Plan. Revision of local strategy to ensure consistency with National Strategy (August 2020) 	<u>15th March 2022</u> Officers were thanked for the annual progress report and requested to give consideration to the following recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ward Councillors to be contacted if problems are experienced with access when undertaking gully clearing, with parked cars for example, to see if they could provide assistance. The checking of high-risk gullies on a more regular basis. An assessment of the area in the vicinity of a development site post-completion, to ascertain if there have been changes to the drainage that would impact on flood risk. <u>7th March 2023</u> Noted that the new Flood Risk Management Strategy will be shared with the Committee for its input prior to submission to Cabinet for approval.
8. Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel – Residential Housing Stock, Health and Safety Compliance	Establishment of Ad Hoc Panel to consider the Council's policies, procedures and arrangements for managing the health and safety of its tenants and its residential property portfolio, with a particular focus on high rise and multiple occupancy blocks. The Panel will produce a Final Report including its recommendations upon completion of its work.	<u>18th March 2021 (Minute 127)</u> ToR and membership agreed <u>15th June 2021</u> Re-established for 2021/22 <u>25th May 2022</u> Re-established for 2022/23 <u>Informal – 4th October 2022</u> – draft Final Report for comment.

9. Overview of Scrutiny Work Programmes	Maintain an overview of the Work Programmes of the four Panels: Children's / Corporate / Economy and Neighbourhoods & Health and Adult Social Care	<u>26th July 2022</u> The Panels' initial work programmes for 2022-23 were endorsed.
10. Armed Forces Covenant	Monitor the Council's work in relation to the Armed Forces Covenant including the potential impact of new legislation (anticipated to come into force in 2022)	<u>21st December 2021</u> Requested that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further information be provided for the Committee in respect of the development of the concept of Armed Forces Champions within services. • The Cabinet Member be requested to consider resourcing, particularly in light of the upcoming changes to legislation, to support and build on the work already undertaken in respect of the Armed Forces Covenant. <u>18th April 2023</u>
11. Voluntary and Community Sector – Investment Strategy/Shared Values and Ways of Working	Input to the development of a shared values approach with the Voluntary and Community Sector	<u>9th November 2021</u> Officers were asked to take account of the points raised by the Committee, in the development of the Kirklees Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Investment Strategy, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach across communities. • Better understanding of communities and covering all demographics. • Communication and engagement with Ward Councillors. • Understanding about funding and how people can find out what available • Sustainability of the Strategy and actions. <p style="text-align: right;">continued....</p> <u>1st November 2022</u> Update - the Kirklees Community and Social Enterprise Investment Strategy and the 'We are Working Alongside' Shared Values had been approved by Cabinet on 20 th October 2022

12. Social Isolation/Loneliness	<p>Scrutiny work in relation to social isolation and loneliness, with specific reference to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic</p>	<p><u>Informal OSMC – 19th April 2022</u> – scope approved</p> <p><u>26th July 2022</u> Approve scope and agree approach.</p> <p><u>4th October 2022</u> Report on the role of the multi-agency Kirklees Loneliness Steering Group Officers were their presentation and asked to consider the following points in taking this work forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need for the steering group to establish an achievable and purposeful work programme aligned with the identified priorities, and for responsibilities and accountability to be discussed with partners alongside consideration of the resources that are necessary to re-shape the approach to tackling loneliness. • The potential for making identifying and addressing loneliness a priority within organisations’ training and development programmes • Links to the community anchor organisations and within the Primary Care Networks. • How support might be provided to people at a point of crisis. • The definition of loneliness in the context of this work. • Links with the Health and Wellbeing Board; highlighting the strategy so that it is visible at the top tiers of partner organisations. <p><u>20th December 2022</u> Recommended that the points raised by the Committee be taken into account in the further development of local responses to identifying, signposting, and referring people who are lonely or isolated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In reviewing guidance wider discussion be undertaken with individuals about their experiences and the challenges faced.
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13. Grant Funding Distribution to Anchor Organisations	Update on contract, to include the expectation in terms of outcomes, the current position, monitoring, identifying any gaps and sharing positive results.	<p><u>4th October 2022</u></p> <p>Update on progress</p> <p>Committee recommended that the following points be taken into account in the further development of the Community Anchor Network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need to support capacity in local communities. • Communication with all community groups and raising awareness of the network. • Further development of the locality plans to link in with other plans and priorities. • Building capacity and developing the network in places where additional support may be needed. • Taking learning from areas where the community groups are operating effectively. <p>and requested that the Head of Service share the locality plans with Members of the Committee in twelve months' time.</p>
14. Regional Working	<p>Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The mechanics of how Kirklees is working with the WYMCA and the relationship between the two. - The funding streams - How funding bids are considered - The project plan 	<p><u>20th December 2022</u></p> <p>Officers asked to give consideration to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need to facilitate a wider awareness of the work of the Combined Authority for Kirklees Councillors. • The provision of greater support for those Councillors representing Kirklees on the Combined Authority.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need for a strategic approach to bus services across the district. • The use of the Place Standard to build a strong evidence base for local priorities. • Feedback to the wider Council from Kirklees Combined Authority representatives.
15. Lead Councillors – Primary Care Networks and Local Health Improvement	Progress report and to obtain scrutiny comments.	<p><u>7th March 2023</u></p> <p>Recommended:</p> <p>(1) In undertaking their review of the role of the Lead Councillors – Primary Care Networks and Local Health Improvement, the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee be requested to give consideration to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need for a formal evaluation of the role to be undertaken, including outcomes achieved and an assessment of the added value. • The need for more prescriptive guidance/support for Councillors undertaking this role. <p>(2) That the following issues be taken on board in progressing the Lead Councillors – Primary Care Networks and Local Health Improvement initiative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need for engagement with all relevant ward councillors, as this will aid the Lead Members in assessing priorities for their area and assist in their discussions with the PCNs. • The benefits of engagement with the wider teams involved with the delivery of primary care to further the place-based approach to improving health outcomes. <p>Continued...</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The importance of place and the need for work to take place at very local level to ensure effective understanding of the needs of an area and how to address them. The importance of the focus on early intervention and prevention. The need for partners to work together to understand how the whole range of resources can be used effectively within each PCN.
LEAD MEMBER BRIEFING ISSUES		
THEME/ISSUE	APPROACH / AREAS OF FOCUS	LEAD OFFICER/NOTES
1. Democracy Commission	Update on work related to the Democracy Commission	Briefing: 7 th June 2021
2. Future Arrangements for the Council's Housing Stock	<p>Monitor implementation of recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel in its Final Report (Cabinet 21 May 2020)</p> <p><i>(Note: The separate Ad Hoc Panel in respect of health and safety compliance is to monitor progress in relation to the recommendation that an Assurance Board be established focussing on housing compliance.)</i></p>	Briefings: 10 th December 2020 and 5 th February 2021
3. Risk		Briefings held approximately every 6 to 8 weeks with the Council's Head of Risk + follow-up briefings as requested
4. Performance Reporting		Briefing: 13 th September 2021
5. Place Based Working		OSMC 15 th April 2021
6. Planning Service		Briefings: 11 th August, 23 rd November 2021 and 16 th September 2022
7. WYMCA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrutiny Function Working with the CA 	<p>To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings with Kirklees Members of WYMCA Scrutiny Committees 	14 th October 2021, 12 th April 2022, 6 th December 2022

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding and Kirklees' approach Links with the West Yorkshire Mayor and Combined Authority and relationship with Kirklees 	Briefings: 16 th February, 16 th March, 25 th March 2022, 21 st June, 10 th August 2022
8. Regeneration		Briefings: 8 th November 2021 and 10 th January 2022
9. Budget Engagement		Briefing: 19 th October 2021 ***
10. Innovative Working in Kirklees		LM briefing tba
11. Challenges to Delivery		LM briefing tba

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