

Scrutiny – Making a Difference

Scrutiny Annual Report 2009/10



Scrutiny & Governance Team
2nd Floor, Civic Centre 3
Huddersfield
HD1 2TG

Tel: 01484 221916

E-mail: scrutiny.governance@kirklees.gov.uk

Website: www.kirklees.gov.uk/scrutiny

Contents

- 1. Foreword**
- 2. Challenges for 2010/11**
- 3. Professor Taylor's Review of Scrutiny**
- 4. Scrutiny End of Year Survey Findings**
- 5. Innovative Scrutiny – Funding Bid Success**
- 6. Shaping & Influencing**
- 7. Engagement with Stakeholders**
- 8. Challenging Decision-Makers**
- 9. Following Up on Previous Recommendations**
- 10. Scrutiny Out and About**
- 11. Frequently Asked Questions**
- 12. Panel Work at a Glance**
- 13. Contacts**

Foreword

from Cllr Robert Iredale, Chair of Scrutiny



2009/10 has been a year of change for all those involved in Scrutiny. At the beginning of the year we took the decision to align scrutiny work to the Council's priorities, and at the end of the year we had the independent Taylor Report reviewing the year's activities.

It is never easy to change from a position of comfort, and I am grateful for the effort and time that Lead Members and officers spent in successfully implementing this change.

In addition the Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel had two Call-Ins and Notice of Concern regarding the Building Schools for the Future programme, and of course there was a further Call-In for the New Mill Library. All of the above were dealt with in a timely and professional way, to the credit of the scrutiny process.

The Taylor Report commended the Council's Scrutiny for the new style of working, however it recommended some changes to the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee including that Lead Members become part of the Committee. Furthermore, it was recommended that Scrutiny should exert more challenge to the Executive on its priorities. Both these recommendations have been incorporated into the 2010/11 programme.

Finally I would like to thank the dedicated officer team, members, and co-optees for all the hard work last year to make Scrutiny the success it is. I look forward to working with you all in 2010/11.

R. C Iredale

Challenges for 2010/11...

2010/11 will be another busy year for Scrutiny, as the actions resulting from the Independent Review and the End of Year Survey start to be implemented. A number of key changes will be made, and challenges faced:

- **New panel structure**
Four thematic panels mirroring the directorate structure of the Council.
- **New make-up of Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee**
Panel Lead Members join the Management Committee, together with the Chair of Scrutiny and two additional members reflecting a 2-2-2-1 proportionality.
- **Approach to setting the Scrutiny Work Programme**
Focus on prioritising and project managing scrutiny reviews to ensure tangible outcomes centred on the priorities of the organisation.
- **Strengthening the Scrutiny/Cabinet Relationship**
A strong, independent, challenge to the Executive.
- **Role of Scrutiny in Organisation**
Clarity across the organisation about the role of Scrutiny and the expectations of officers.
- **Engaging Councillors**
Proactive engagement of a broader range of councillors, through promoting opportunities to influence key issues.
- **Monitor Recommendations**
Active follow up of scrutiny recommendations, challenging progress and demonstrating outcomes.

Professor Taylor's Review of Scrutiny

In May 2009, the Corporate Governance & Audit Committee commissioned an independent review of the Kirklees' scrutiny function, to be undertaken by Professor Andrew Taylor, Head of Politics, Sheffield University. 28 people were interviewed about their views of Scrutiny, including: Cabinet members, Scrutiny members, council partners and council officers. He also considered the context and development of Scrutiny in Kirklees, the legislative drivers and issues on the horizon that could impact on future scrutiny approaches. His broad conclusions were:

- Scrutiny has a long history in Kirklees, which means there is great familiarity with the idea of scrutiny and its value to the organisation as a whole.
- The close political balance has encouraged a culture of bi-partisanship in the scrutiny process.
- There is a powerful conviction that scrutiny is not to make life difficult for the executive but to improve the development and implementation of good policy in a way that benefits citizens.
- Scrutiny has pulled together all parts of the authority behind a common objective and aspirations that are deeply embedded.
- The centrality of scrutiny in the authority has provided a major development opportunity for members, many of whom go on to occupy executive positions. The involvement of former executive members in scrutiny increases its authority and effectiveness.
- Whilst Kirklees can demonstrate good practice there is a need to refocus.
- Consideration should be given to the membership and role of

OSMC; its focus should be on managing the function and not issue related scrutiny work. An OSMC composed of a Chair and Lead Members would lead the scrutiny agenda and be interface with Cabinet.

- Scrutiny and Cabinet's relationship needs to be restated at every level; critical friend approach is generally constructive but has led to a decreasing level of challenge; limited evidence of the Cabinet being seen to be held to account for its decisions; main focus of Panels should be challenging and holding Cabinet to account
- Standing panels should be restructured and realigned so they more closely track the portfolios. Resources and effort should be transferred to the Ad Hoc Panels.
- The approach to work programming introduced in 2009/10, which focused the scrutiny work programme on Council priorities and underperforming performance indicators, should be continued.
- Lead Members should not come from parties composing the Cabinet; Chair of Scrutiny should always be drawn from an opposition group.
- The Council might wish to consider some strategic thinking about the likely possible lines of development in local governance and their implications for Scrutiny.
- The number of standing panels should be reduced by abolishing Corporate Affairs. Ad Hocs could be established to undertake big corporate focussed pieces of work.

The outcomes of the report have led to a number of changes being implemented as we move forward into 2010/11 and these are set out in more detail in the section 'Challenges for 2010/11'.

Scrutiny End of Year Survey Findings



In April 2010, an end of year survey was carried out with all councillors and co-optees who sit on Scrutiny Panels to establish their views and experiences of the scrutiny function over the last 12 months.

Key Findings

- Respondents were satisfied with their personal input into setting the work programme
- Respondents were satisfied with the issues their Panel looked at; and 94% had found them interesting
- Individual members of panels did not feel they had been utilised fully – more would be willing to undertake assigned tasks
- Feedback from Lead Members to the rest of their Panels needs to be strengthened, so everyone feels fully engaged
- Scheduling of Panel meetings should be done in consultation with all members of a Panel
- Clashes with other commitments is the most common reason for missing a Panel meeting
- Frequency, timing and length of Panel meetings were good
- More focused agendas providing an opportunity to question and scrutinise, not just receive briefings
- A dedicated scrutiny training programme should be introduced for 2010/11
- More project managed approach to scrutiny, to ensure focused pieces of work, with definite outcomes and realistic work programmes
- Respondents were satisfied (97%) with the support provided by the Scrutiny Team
- Increased focus on holding Cabinet to account
- Strengthened monitoring and following up procedures to ensure all recommendations followed up
- Scrutiny website needs to be improved to ensure easier navigation
- Respondents had valued undertaking site visits, and particularly enjoyed meeting people

The Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee has analysed the outcomes of the survey and an action plan is being put into place for 2010/11 to address the areas for improvement.

Innovative Scrutiny – Funding Bid Success

“...‘Independence without Isolation’ was unanimously acclaimed by the reviewing panel as an exemplary bid...” [Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS)]

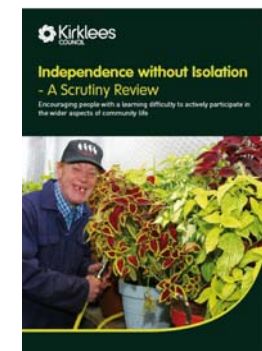
In September 2009, Kirklees Council successfully applied for funding from the Centre for Public Scrutiny to carry out an innovative scrutiny review, which would focus on the link between social isolation and health inequalities; and which would also demonstrate how health and wellbeing scrutiny contributes to community cohesion. The Health Inequalities Panel decided that the focus of the review would be the impact of social isolation on people with learning disabilities, particularly when they are living independently. It had been identified in the Kirklees Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2009 (JSNA) that people with learning disabilities are far more likely to say that they feel isolated and not an integral part of the community in which they live. The JSNA further identified that the number of people with learning disabilities living in Kirklees was increasing at a higher rate than the national average.

The review was carried out between October 2009 and March 2010, as the Panel sought to ascertain what is being done to tackle the social isolation felt by learning disabled people; and how they can achieve independence and choice over how they live their lives without facing isolation. Fundamental to the review was conducting face to face interviews with local learning disabled people, their families and carers, in order to gain personal insight into the effects of social isolation on this vulnerable group of people. The innovative element of the project

was to develop approaches to involving vulnerable and hard to reach groups in scrutiny.

From these initial discussions, the Panel identified a number of key areas they wanted to investigate in further detail: Transition from Childhood to Adulthood; Further Education and Employment; Transportation; Leisure; Housing; and Health. The Panel then progressed onto meeting with professionals and service providers. Under each of the key areas investigated by the Panel, clear findings, conclusions and recommendations were identified and were compiled into a comprehensive report. In addition to the traditional scrutiny report, the Panel also produced an Easy to Understand Guide, specifically aimed at people with learning disabilities. This was written in conjunction with Mencap in Kirklees. The funding from Centre for Public Scrutiny also required that the findings of the review, and the innovative approach to scrutiny, be shared on a national basis.

A Key Findings Summary Brochure was produced in order to do this. The report and recommendations have now been accepted by the Cabinet and an Action Learning Group, of all key parties, has been set up to progress the recommendations.



Shaping & Influencing

Scrutiny provides an opportunity for councillors to actively influence and shape key policies and strategies at the development stage

Domestic Violence

The Safer Stronger Communities Panel have continued to focus on the issue of domestic violence in Kirklees and how partner agencies are working together to provide a better response, policies and outcomes. The Panel has specifically concentrated on two objectives within the Kirklees Domestic Violence Strategy – ‘Improving the Criminal Justice Response to Domestic Violence’ and ‘Improving the early identification of an intervention with victims’.



The Panel’s work has involved visiting the Safeguarding Unit at Heckmondwike Police Station, and further visits are planned to the Special Domestic Violence Court and a women’s refuge in north Kirklees.

The Panel’s Lead Member, Cllr Gwen Lowe, has been working closely with the Domestic Violence Team to put together ‘Am I a Victim’ domestic violence awareness raising campaigns in Batley and Fieldhead. £1000 was secured from Batley Area Committee to support people affected by domestic violence and to raise their awareness and ability to access services and to increase reporting. This includes developing a Domestic Violence Resource Pack translated into community languages, and a number of targeted neighbourhood events have been held in Children’s Centres and Batley Town Hall. Awareness raising sessions will also be carried out in Dewsbury District Hospital A&E Department and with the midwives team to assist them in detecting the signs of domestic violence at antenatal appointments. The Panel’s work will continue in the new municipal year.

Regional Scrutiny

On 9 December, Kirklees hosted a Regional Scrutiny Network Event. Councillor and officer representatives attended from across the Yorkshire and Humber Region. Cllr Iredale, Chair of Scrutiny, chaired the event, which was an opportunity to start thinking about how a regional scrutiny network would look and how it could examine and influence regional strategy. Speakers included: the Chair of the Leaders Board for Yorkshire & Humber; Chief Executive of Local Government Yorkshire & Humber and the Executive Director of the Centre for Public Scrutiny. Workshops were held on Challenges for Scrutiny; Engaging Elected Members in Scrutiny; and Identifying Topics for Regional Scrutiny.



Dementia

At the start of the 2009/10 municipal year, the Adults & Healthier Communities Scrutiny Panel agreed that one of its work programme objectives would be to explore issues in relation to dementia. The Panel recognised that nationally and locally dementia poses one of the biggest challenges facing the health and social care economy; and, with an aging population, Alzheimer's disease and other causes of dementia are becoming more common. The Panel learned that plans were in place to develop a local strategy in response to the Government's National Dementia Strategy, and asked for the opportunity to influence and shape the strategy for Kirklees at an early stage. Some Panel members had had personal experience of accessing dementia services and had found the experience daunting. They wanted to explore the quality of information available, the pathways for accessing services and the quality of service provision in Kirklees. As part of the Panel's information gathering process, officers from Kirklees Council, South West Yorkshire Partnership Foundation Trust and the Alzheimer's Society presented information to the Panel. The Panel also had the opportunity to visit St Luke's Hospital and Claremont House, a residential home that provides long and short stay care for people with dementia. The Panel's findings were compiled in a short report, with recommendations to increase local publicity on dementia services and how to access them, and the acceleration of the

Mental Health Trust's community based strategy i.e. by running memory clinics at locations across Kirklees. The Panel will be monitoring progress against the recommendations over the next 12 months.



Flood Risk

The Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee considered a request from a member of the public in June 2009 for scrutiny to look at a number of issues relating to flood risk. There were specific concerns over the

risk associated with flooding in areas of South Dewsbury that had been identified for the development of eco-settlements within the Local Development Framework. The request was subsequently referred to the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel who set up an assigned task to carry out the work. The Panel was keen to ensure they had early involvement in the proposed developments in South Dewsbury in order to influence the working practices of those involved in the decision making processes of the assessment of flood risk from developments. This offered scrutiny an opportunity to shape the roles and responsibilities of the key stakeholders involved in flood risk assessment, particularly as the review would be completed shortly before the Flood and Water Management Bill was due to receive royal assent.

A series of evidence gathering sessions were held with a range of organisations that included the Environment Agency. The review included a field trip to see examples of developments and how they had taken into account the risk of flooding. The Panel was also presented with a virtual 'fly through' of the proposed areas of development in South Dewsbury via Google Earth. The Panel has proposed a number of recommendations designed to ensure that all of the main stakeholders involved in flood risk assessment have a clear understanding of each other's roles and responsibilities and that communication is strengthened and improved. Scrutiny is keen to continue with the work that has been started in this review and are proposing to widen the areas of investigation going forward in 2010/11.

Engagement with Stakeholders

Scrutiny involves a diverse range of people including experts, young people and the public to use their viewpoints and experiences to inform scrutiny work and outcomes

International New Arrivals

Following a presentation in April 2009 on examination results in Kirklees Schools, the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel had concerns about the impact that the placement of children classed as international new arrivals was having on education. The Panel identified this issue as a key scrutiny item in the 2009/10 work programme and set out to establish the impact on schools, particularly in those areas of Kirklees where concentration of settlement was highest. The Panel took the view that whilst it should hear from officers within the Council it was important to speak to front line teaching staff and pupils. The Panel identified two schools that had different characteristics but shared a common issue of having a relatively high intake of international new arrival pupils. In November 2009, Panel members visited Birkby Junior School and Birkdale High School where they spoke to teaching staff about the additional pressures and challenges facing schools. Panel members also had the opportunity to speak to pupils which included both local and international new arrival children. The Panel found the visits extremely useful and many members remarked on how impressed they had been with the manner of all of the children who had participated in the discussions. The information gathered from this exercise provided an invaluable insight into how the teaching staff and the children themselves were coping in sometimes quite challenging circumstances.

The Panel used the visits to highlight key issues as the basis of further discussions with officers from the Learning Section of the Children and Young People Service, with the aim of agreeing measures that could be taken to improve the educational attainment of international new arrivals and minimise the impact of the local children.

Anti-Social Behaviour

As part of the Safer Stronger Communities Panel's work on reducing anti-social behaviour and fear of crime, members decided to concentrate on the current initiatives and licensing laws in place to tackle problems related to the night time town centre economy. Lead Member, Cllr Simpson, and Colin Gower, co-optee, attended a Night Time Walk About to gather evidence for the investigation. Led by Sgt John McFadzean of Huddersfield South Neighbourhood Policing Team, the walk-about aimed to find out about any difficulties faced by Town Centre Traders, Licensees, Taxi Marshalls, Street Angels and the Police.

Members commented that the visit had been worthwhile and informative, allowing the opportunity to talk to the police and witness incidents and arrests.



Councillor Call for Action (CCfA) – Ashbrow Health Provision

On 8 December 2009 the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee agreed to establish a CCfA Review Panel in respect of health provision in the Ashbrow Ward, following a request from the three Ashbrow Ward Councillors. They were of the view that there had been limited engagement from NHS Kirklees in response to their concerns that there needed to be an improvement to the health provision in the Ashbrow ward.

From the start of the review the Panel was keen to ensure that the opinions of local residents and community groups were taken into consideration and decided to take a proactive approach to involving local residents. A variety of methods were used in an attempt to establish meaningful engagement with residents:

- Distributing posters advertising and promoting the review to approximately 50 locations across Ashbrow Ward.
- Press releases encouraging local residents to contribute to the review.
- Developing a questionnaire that was also available to be completed electronically on the Kirklees website.
- Sending out letters to local organisations and voluntary groups.
- Using the Kirklees Local Involvement Network (LINK).
- Panel visits to the Chestnut Centre, Deighton, and the Friday Friends Group (for elderly residents in Bradley).
- An open meeting held to hear public comments and views.

The results of this approach helped to significantly increase the level of involvement that is normally associated with this type of review and enabled Panel Members to speak face-to-face with 50 local residents. It also generated sufficient local interest for a petition of 542 signatures to be handed to the Panel.

The success of achieving a high level of involvement from local residents has helped to inform the Panel views and findings and the proactive approach taken to engaging with the public will be repeated, where it is appropriate, in future scrutiny reviews.



Challenging decision-makers

Scrutiny has worked constructively with Cabinet Members to contribute to the good governance of Kirklees, and maintained the role of a 'critical friend'

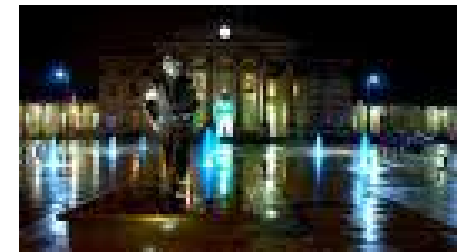
Reconfiguration of Specialist Services

Kirklees joined forces with Wakefield Council to look at the Mid Yorkshire Hospitals Trust consultation on specialist hospital services. Members of the public were invited to address the Joint Health Committee on their views. The Committee conducted a thorough, evidence based review of the key proposals, looking at both the clinical arguments for change and the potential impact on patients. A final report was produced together with a number of recommendations centring on the urology and lower gastro-intestinal cancer service; the use of pre-alerts for severely injured patients; the transport impacts of the proposals; and investment in intermediate tier provision. The Joint Health Committee has continued to monitor the progress of their recommendations, and the work is likely to continue into 2010/11 as proposals are not finalised.

St George's Square

In June 2009 the Chair of Scrutiny received a request asking that scrutiny look at the way the decision to proceed with the works on St George's Square had been made. The request was discussed by the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee during September 2009, who referred the issue to the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel to undertake a review of the decision making process, including the public consultation exercise. The Panel agreed to focus on the decision path that was taken in reaching the final design layout and to review the financial aspects of the project. A series of meetings were held between November 2009 and April 2010 inviting key individuals as witnesses including the Project Executive, Project Manager and Assistant Director of Finance. The Panel was also given access to significant documentary evidence that allowed the Panel to gain a thorough understanding of the decision making path; work through the time table of events; and to review the financial aspects of the project.

One of the Panel's key objectives was to ensure that the lessons learned from the St George's Square project could be used to enable the authority to learn from the experience and improve future practice. The Panel's views and findings have resulted in recommendations to Cabinet that impact on many areas across the authority and are aimed at ensuring that future projects are undertaken in a more robust and transparent manner.



Call-In – New Mill Library

In July 2009, a decision by the Cabinet to close New Mill Library and replace it with a mobile library service was called in. The Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee heard the Call-In and considered evidence from the signatories, the Cabinet Member, officers, and members of the public in attendance. They also studied all relevant background information used in the decision-making process.

The Committee determined that they were not satisfied that the decision to close New Mill Library was made in accordance with decision-making principle 13.2a, which requires decisions to have regard to all relevant considerations. It emerged during the course of the meeting that the Cabinet had been mistakenly advised that public access computer facilities would be available onboard mobile libraries, when they made their decision. Whilst the Committee accepted that this was unintentional, they were concerned that the misinformation could have affected the decision made by individual Cabinet Members. They therefore asked that the decision be deferred until full consideration had been given to ensuring that there was alternative access to public computer facilities in New Mill.

The Cabinet subsequently confirmed their original decision; however they took into account the Committee's comments and asked the relevant Cabinet Member and officers to investigate the availability of IT equipment being used by members of the public in local schools. They also recommended that the Ward Members should look at the use of local Area Committee funding in respect of the provision of IT equipment in the New Mill area.



Notice of Concern

In December, the Chair of Scrutiny issued a notice of concern regarding the Cabinet's intended decision on the proposals to discontinue and proposals to enlarge Earlsheaton Technical College, the Thornhill Community Science College, and Westborough High School. The grounds for the notice centred on the fact that a decision on the future of Castle Hall School and Mirfield Free Grammar was still being considered by the Office of the Schools Adjudicator. It was of concern that the decision the Cabinet was being asked to make, might be affected by the outcome of this adjudication. At a Call-In on 31 March 2009, the Children & Young People Panel had raised concern about the Cabinet making decisions within the Building Schools for the Future Programme before all material facts were known. It was therefore recommended that the Cabinet defer their decision until the outcome of the referral to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator was known.

Following receipt of the Notice of Concern, a discussion was held between the Cabinet Members responsible for Children & Families, the Chair of Scrutiny, and the Lead Member of the Children & Young People Panel. It was subsequently agreed to withdraw the Notice as it was accepted that the timing of the decision was necessary due to legal constraints. The Cabinet Members also agreed to announce at Cabinet that the decision would be revisited if necessary following the Schools Adjudicator's decision.

Following up on previous recommendations

Scrutiny recognises the importance of following up on recommendations to ensure that agreed outcomes are achieved

Call-In – Building Schools for the Future

In March 2009, when the Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel considered a call-in of a Cabinet decision to close Castle Hall School in Mirfield, they highlighted two concerns about the closure that they wished Cabinet to take into account. Firstly, they were concerned about the potential loss of a language specialism school in North Kirklees, and secondly, they were concerned about the capability of the future development of the alternative site in Mirfield to accommodate increased pupil numbers. They made a specific request that Cabinet report back to them at a future date to specifically address these concerns.



In October 2009, the Cabinet Members and senior officers from the Children & Young People Service were asked to provide an update and explain how they had taken into account the Panel's comments. A comprehensive response was provided, including input from two signatories to the original call-in and the Chair of Governors at Mirfield Free Grammar, which generally satisfied members.

Winter Maintenance

In February 2009, the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee was requested to review the Winter Maintenance Policy following the problems created during the 2008/09 winter. Following an initial look, it was agreed that the Highways and Transportation Service would undertake an already planned review and bring the findings back to the Committee. In October 2009, officers returned to OSMC and set out a proposed Winter Maintenance Policy for scrutiny consideration, in advance of submission to Cabinet.



Reconfiguration of Children & Women's Services

In November 2009, a number of scrutiny councillors received an update from the Calderdale & Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust on the impact of the reconfiguration of children and women's services, that scrutiny had originally been consulted on during 2005/06. The Trust had undertaken a review of how service changes had performed and wanted the opportunity to share their findings. Following that meeting, councillors invited the Trust to attend the next Council meeting to provide an update to all councillors, due to the important nature of this issue. The Trust attended Full Council in January 2010 to give a well-received presentation and answer questions from councillors.

Scrutiny Out and About

Scrutiny Panels have undertaken a wide range of site visits during 2009/10 to complement the work they have been carrying out

15 August 2009

Huddersfield Town Centre
Night Time Walkabout

16 November 2009

Birkby Infant School and
Birkdale High School

22 February 2010

New Mill – flood risk sites



23 September 2009

Kirklees Direct



2 December 2009

Employee
Healthcare Unit

9 February 2010

Brighton Court
supported housing
scheme

30 September 2009

Domestic Violence
Strategy Launch, Al
Hikmah Centre, Batley

25 March 2010

Safeguarding Unit,
Heckmondwike Police
Station



2 November 2009

Claremont House
residential home



26 March 2010

Deanery Project, Bradley

Co-optees

Cllr Robert Iredale, on behalf of everyone involved in Scrutiny, would like to acknowledge the contribution and commitment of the Co-optees to our work

The contribution that the voluntary co-optees make to the work of scrutiny continues to be invaluable. Not only do the co-optees come from all walks of life bringing a wealth of knowledge, and experience; they also add a community perspective to the issues being looked at by Scrutiny.

Welcome

In November we launched a new co-optee recruitment campaign entitled 'Scrutiny Needs You', and we are pleased to welcome a new cohort of co-optees to scrutiny

Susan Adams

Jaye Cozens

Lisa Jones

Linda Summers

Steve Bradbury

Malcolm Ellison

Amanda Stubley

Karin Westeman

We have also run two elections to appoint parent governor representatives to the Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel and are pleased to welcome:

Kirsten Barker, Shelley College

Jayne Clarke, Crossley Fields J & I School

Margaret Dobson, Rowley Lane J, I, & N School

Scrutiny would like to say thank you and goodbye to:

Diane Lockwood – Health Inequalities

Keith Lorriman – Safer Stronger Communities

Helen Singleton – Children & Young People



Frequently Asked Questions

Here are some brief answers to the most frequently asked questions about Scrutiny. More detailed information is available from www.kirklees.gov.uk/scrutiny.

What is Scrutiny?

Scrutiny acts as a check and balance on the Council's decision-maker (the Cabinet) by holding it to account for its decisions. Scrutiny aims to:

- Improve services for local people and their communities;
- Ensure that Cabinet is accountable to the public;
- Improve the performance of the Council's services;
- Improve the performance of other public service for which the Council has responsibility or is a stakeholder in;
- Actively engage local people in scrutiny and promote issues which are of importance and of relevance to them.

Who is involved?

All Councillors who do not hold a Cabinet post, and voluntary co-optees, supported by a dedicated Scrutiny Team, form a structure of: A Management Committee who lead and manage the overall process; 4 permanent thematic Panels linked to Council structures; and 'ad hoc' panels to carry out short term in-depth investigations.

Is scrutiny a political activity?

Scrutiny is a key part of the political process; however it is not party political. The Scrutiny Committee and Panel structures are made up of Councillors from across all the political groups. Councillors leave their party politics at the door and look objectively at issues.

How do you choose what to scrutinise?

The councillors and voluntary co-optees involved in Scrutiny decide which issues they want to prioritise for Scrutiny to look at. Carrying out effective Scrutiny takes a lot of time, commitment and effort so it is simply not possible to look at every issue.

When choosing issues, Scrutiny will consider whether it can make a real difference (for example, whether recommendations could result in improved services).

What can't Scrutiny look at and why?

Scrutiny is not appropriate for considering individual complaints. The panels also cannot investigate regulatory or 'quasi-judicial' decisions, such as planning or licensing decisions.

How can members of the public be involved?

- You can attend public meetings of the Management Committee or Scrutiny Panels;
- You can suggest a topic for a scrutiny review;
- Give evidence to a panel or send us your views about any of the reviews being undertaken;
- Keep updated about what is happening in Scrutiny by looking at www.kirklees.gov.uk/scrutiny
- Join a pool of people interested in being co-opted onto the panels when vacancies are advertised.

Panel Work at a Glance

Panel Membership	Work Programme
ADULTS & HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL	
Cllr Jean Calvert (Lead Member) Cllr Roger Battye Cllr Derek Hardcastle Cllr Christine Iredale Co-optees: Geoff Hughes; Peter Mackle; Nancy Tuke	Dementia Homecare South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust – Proposed Changes to Mental Health and Learning Disability Services
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL	
Cllr Margaret Fearnley (Lead Member) Cllr Barbara Jones Cllr Rochelle Parchment Cllr Mohammed Sarwar Cllr Beryl Smith Cllr Elaine Ward Co-optees: Richard Burge; Kate Cross; Helen Singleton	Call-In – Building Schools for the Future Consultation for Secondary Schools in North Kirklees Local Authority Commissioning of 16-19 Education and Transfer of Learning & Skills Council Staff Use of Exclusions by Kirklees Schools Safeguarding & Specialist Provision Impact of International New Arrivals on Education NI92 – Narrowing the Gap NI112 – Under 18 Conception Rate NI117 – 16-18 Year Olds Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) Studio Schools – Netherhall Learning Campus

CORPORATE AFFAIRS SCRUTINY PANEL

Cllr David Hall (Lead Member)

Cllr Mahmood Akhtar

Cllr John Cook

Cllr Eric Firth

Cllr Ann Raistrick

Cllr David Ridgway

Co-optees: Barry McErlain; Peter Walker

ONE Council Approach and Customer Excellence

Procurement

Attendance Management

Innovation & Efficiency

Revenues & Benefits

Bad Debts Write Offs

INtouch

HEALTH INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

Cllr Liz Smaje (Lead Member)

Cllr Margaret Bates

Cllr Roger Battye

Cllr Mohan Sokhal

Cllr Kath Taylor

Co-optees: Ashraf Ali; Liz Goldthorpe

Social Isolation and Effects on Learning Disabled People

Local Response to Swine Flu

REGENERATION SCRUTINY PANEL

Cllr Nigel Patrick (Lead Member)

Cllr Steve Hall

Cllr Robert Iredale

Cllr Andrew Pinnock

Cllr Vivien Lees-Hamilton

Co-optees: Peter Mackle; Robin Schofield; Ian Steele

Local Development Framework

Tackling the Recession

Delivery of Affordable Housing in Kirklees

NI153 – Working Age People Claiming Out of Work Benefits

Decision Making Process for St George's Square

Efficiency Savings, Planning & Building Control Services

Flood Risk in Kirklees

SAFER STRONGER COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

Cllr Gwen Lowe (Lead Member)
Cllr Donald Firth
Cllr Royston Rogers
Cllr Cathy Scott
Cllr Graham Simpson
Cllr David Woodhead
Co-optees: Colin Gower; David Pinder

Alcohol Related Anti-Social Behaviour and Night Time Economy
Voluntary & Community Sector Strategy
Corporate Policy for Community Facilities
Domestic Violence
Restorative Justice
Choice Based Lettings
Scrutiny of CDRP

JOINT HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Cllr Liz Smaje (Lead Member)
Cllr Derek Hardcastle
Cllr Paul Kane
Cllr Ann Raistrick

Mid Yorkshire Hospitals Trust Reconfiguration of Specialist Services

CCfA REVIEW PANEL – HEALTH SERVICES IN ASHBROW

Cllr Liz Smaje (Lead Member)
Cllr Cathy Scott
Cllr Christine Stanfield
Geoff Hughes

Healthcare provision in the Ashbrow Ward

Panel Membership 2010/11

Overview & Scrutiny Management

Committee

Cllr Robert Iredale (Chair)
Cllr Jean Calvert
Cllr Margaret Fearnley
Cllr Nigel Patrick
Cllr Carole Pattison
Cllr Ken Sims
Cllr Julie Stewart Turner

Well-Being & Communities Scrutiny

Panel

Cllr Jean Calvert (Lead Member)
Cllr Roger Batty
Cllr Christine Iredale
Cllr Viv Kendrick
Cllr Andrew Marchington
Cllr Liz Smaje
Kiran Bali (West Yorkshire Police
Authority Representative)
Geoff Hughes
David Pinder
Nancy Tuke
Karin Westeman

Children & Young People Scrutiny

Panel

Cllr Margaret Fearnley (Lead Member)
Cllr Mahmood Akhtar
Cllr Rochelle Parchment
Cllr Carole Pattison
Cllr Cathy Scott
Cllr Beryl Smith
Kirsten Barker (Parent Governor,
Statutory Co-optee)
Richard Burge (Diocese
Representative, Statutory Co-optee)
Jayne Clarke (Parent Governor,
Statutory Co-optee)
Kate Cross
Margaret Dobson (Parent Governor,
Statutory Co-optee)

Development & Environment

Scrutiny Panel

Cllr Ken Sims (Lead Member)
Cllr Steve Hall
Cllr Robert Iredale
Cllr Vivien Lees-Hamilton
Cllr Nigel Patrick
Cllr Carole Pattison
Malcolm Ellison
Robin Schofield
Ian Steele

Resources Scrutiny Panel

Cllr Julie Stewart Turner (Lead
Member)
Cllr John Cook
Cllr Eric Firth
Cllr David Hall
Cllr Barbara Jones
Cllr David Ridgway
Susan Adams
Linda Summers
Peter Walker

Panel Membership 2010/11

Scrutiny & Governance Manager

Penny Bunker 01484 221944

Senior Scrutiny Officer

Laura Ellis 01484 221916

Scrutiny Officers

Jenny Bryce-Chan 01484 221907

Richard Dunne 01484 221687

Beth Hewitt 01484 221864

Scrutiny & Governance Team
2nd Floor, Civic Centre 3
Huddersfield HD1 2TG

Scrutiny.governance@kirklees.gov.uk

www.kirklees.gov.uk/scrutiny