

Scrutiny Annual Report

2011/12





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Chair's Introduction

2011/12 was another productive year for Scrutiny as we continued to provide constructive challenge and hold decision makers to account.

At the start of the year, faced with an extensive list of issues we could potentially look at, it was important for Scrutiny to focus on those issues where it could make a real difference to the Council and the residents of Kirklees. I am therefore pleased to present the 2011/12 Annual Report which showcases just some of the key pieces of work undertaken by Scrutiny throughout the year.

I would also like to take the opportunity to acknowledge and thank all those people who contributed to, and supported the work of Scrutiny, and look forward to working with you during the forthcoming year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Patrick', written in a cursive style.

Cllr Nigel Patrick

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee 2011-2012



**Councillor
Carole Pattison**



**Councillor
Nigel Patrick
Chair of Overview &
Scrutiny**



**Councillor
John Lawson**



**Councillor
Ken Sims
Lead Member for
Development &
Environment
Scrutiny Panel**



**Councillor
Julie Stewart-Turner
Lead Member for
Resources Scrutiny
Panel**

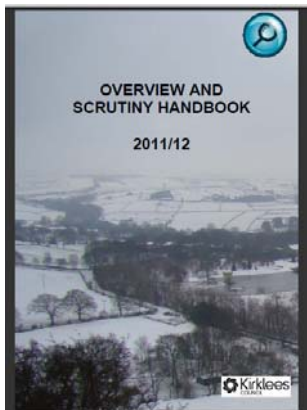


**Councillor
Cahal Burke
Lead Member for
Children & Young
People Scrutiny
Panel**



**Councillor
Viv Kendrick
Lead Member for
Well-Being &
Communities
Scrutiny Panel**

Scrutiny Work 2011-12



Overview and Scrutiny in Kirklees forms an important part of the democratic process and aims to make a difference by undertaking projects and tasks that underpin the Council's drive to be more efficient, transparent and accountable.

This annual report sets out some of the key pieces of work and projects undertaken by Scrutiny during 2011-12.

Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee

The work of Scrutiny in Kirklees is co-ordinated by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC), which manages and gives steer to a structure of four Scrutiny Panels.



One of the fundamental roles of OSMC is to ensure that Scrutiny has a manageable work load and at the start of 2011-12, **94** issues were identified as potential Scrutiny work programme items.

This long list of potential issues was drawn up from priorities identified by Cabinet Members, Directors, and Partner Organisations such as Health, as well as those issues the Panels felt could be rolled forward from the previous year.

OSMC began an initial exercise of whittling down the long list identifying areas relevant to the remit of each of the panels. Each Scrutiny Panel was then tasked with reducing the list further by identifying 2 or 3 key priority areas to be included on its work programme for the year. In total, 38 main issues were looked at (see page 14-16 for details).

OSMC met on a 4 weekly basis and in addition to overseeing the work of the Panels, it had its own work programme which focused on strategic issues. These issues included:-

- *Monitoring performance information and referring any key areas of concern to Panels.*
- *Keeping abreast of national policy and legislation such as aspects of the Localism Act and the regional changes in respect of the introduction of the*

Police and Crime Commissioners and Police and Crime Panels.

- *Maintaining an overview of the progress of Panels in delivering the work programme; and following up on Scrutiny Recommendations.*
- *Considering requests for Scrutiny investigations.*
- *Having an overview of the Council's budget setting process.*
- *Contributing to the development of key council strategies, such as the Tackling Poverty Strategy.*



Marketplace Electronic Procurement System



In October 2010, having been presented with information on how the Council procured its goods and services using Marketplace, an Electronic Procurement System, the Resources Scrutiny Panel

set up a Task Group to look in more detail at Marketplace.

The terms of reference for the Task included:

- *Understanding the pros and cons of the Marketplace system.*
- *Understanding the training mechanisms and ongoing support for users across Kirklees.*
- *Exploring whether the Council should pursue the current system, restructure it; or explore a different procurement process to improve efficiencies in the future.*

A thorough review of Marketplace was undertaken by the Task Group who spoke to users of the system as well as observing a demonstration of how the system works. The review provided an objective look at Marketplace and in March 2011, the review concluded with a report listing 11

recommendations which aimed to make the system more efficient. The review aided the Council's decision to purchase a new system that will best meet the needs of a 21st century organisation.

In November 2011, the Panel followed up on the recommendations and were pleased with the progress that had been made and the impact of Scrutiny.

Update on Renewal of Crematoria and Cemeteries

A progress update on the renewal of crematoria and cemeteries was requested by the Development and Environment Scrutiny Panel (D&E) in February 2012.

The update was follow-up to a report that had been presented to Cabinet in June 2011, which made 9 recommendations all of which were accepted by Cabinet. The progress update to the D&E Panel highlighted the following progress against the recommendations:-

- *The Bereavement Services Partnership had been re-instated to improve relationships and communication between the Council and key stakeholders such as undertakers, faith groups and proprietors of private burial grounds.*

- *Improved working with other West Yorkshire authorities had enabled a number of joint projects, including reducing the cost of procuring mercury abatement equipment through a West Yorkshire wide agreement.*
- *A draft Bereavement Services Strategy had been written through consultation with the Bereavement Services Partnership drawing on technical information such as forecasting tools and best practice guides. This was sent out for wider public consultation earlier this year to help inform the emerging strategy.*



- *A lower burial density ratio for existing and new burial sites had been introduced in Kirklees to come in line with industry experts.*
- *A more responsive maintenance regime based on local need; and an action plan to support greater voluntary participation in the maintenance of cemeteries across Kirklees.*

The Panel was pleased with the work that had been carried out in progressing the recommendations and supportive of the plans to consult on the strategy.

Winter Maintenance Report

Winter maintenance is an important role undertaken by the Council to allow road users to move around as safely as possible. This service is also designed to meet the needs of the district's most vulnerable residents and provide access to essential services.

The winter periods during the last few years have seen temperatures that were markedly below the longer term average and this has presented local authorities with a major challenge in keeping the road networks moving.

A Scrutiny Task Group was set up to explore the following issues:

- *Establish what was done differently for the winter periods 2009/10 and 2010/11, the impact of these changes, the lessons learned and how this would impact on the approach taken for the winter period 2011/12.*
- *Review the policy for road salt supplies.*
- *Review the impact that severe weather had on access and delivery of Council services; identifying good practice and scope for improvement; and looking at the Council's approach to communication, co-ordination of services and managing public expectation.*

The Task Group held a series of meetings with a range of witnesses with the aim of establishing the approach that was being taken by key Council services such as Education and Adult Services.

The Panel also spoke to officers from the Streetscene Winter Maintenance Team, Cleansing and Corporate Safety and obtained input from local bus operators in the form of a postal questionnaire.



The Task Group's findings were generally supportive of the approach being taken by the Council and made a number of recommendations designed to help strengthen and support the work already being carried out. The recommendations included the following:

- *That Streetscene continue to develop officer expertise, knowledge and experience required to oversee and support the Council's winter maintenance programme.*

- *That the policy to secure pre-winter salt stock levels to provide sufficient supplies to cope with the severest of winters (as experienced in 2009-10) should continue.*
- *Proposing a number of actions to resolve the long term maintenance of Area Committee funded grit bins.*
- *That a commitment be made to continue with the annual pre-winter planning meeting and post winter review with the aim of improving the Council's response to severe weather conditions.*

The report was presented to Cabinet in February 2012 and the recommendations were accepted with an agreement that the key recommendations would be implemented before the onset of the winter period 2012/13.



Independence without Isolation



In June 2010, the former Health Inequalities Scrutiny Panel concluded a major 9 month long project entitled 'Independence without Isolation'. The project had investigated what was being

done to tackle the social isolation felt by learning disabled people and how they could achieve independence and choice over how they lived their lives without facing isolation.

The project was funded by the Centre for Public Scrutiny, as an innovative scrutiny review, and the Panel ensured that its findings were firmly rooted in the evidence provided by people with learning disabilities and their families and carers. They were fully involved throughout the investigation and the original report was also produced in an easy read format. The Panel hoped that the recommendations would lead to positive outcomes for learning disabled people in Kirklees and their families and carers.

In September 2011, 18 months on from the original project, the Scrutiny Panel for Well-Being & Communities established a Task Group to follow up each of the 26 recommendations to ensure that progress had been made.

The Panel spoke with all those commissioned to implement the recommendations and challenged the progress that had been made. The Panel was delighted to learn of the improvements that had resulted from the Scrutiny investigation, and these included:

- *The introduction of the Kirklees Multi-Agency Transition Protocol, which will ensure that all young learning disabled people have a smooth and efficient transition, and that all disabled young people in Year 9 of each academic year are placed on a database for tracking through transition.*
- *The transfer of all staff within the Community Learning Disability Team onto a single IT system, which enables all professionals to access information about a service user from a single place and minimises the need for asking service users to repeat basic information and history.*
- *Commitment to introducing trial flats in new supported living schemes, so that learning disabled people can trial independent living prior to making a longer term commitment.*
- *Introduction of early screening for dementia as part of the annual health check for learning disabled people.*

- *Clarification on information sharing protocols between the local authority and NHS Kirklees to ensure that all parties are clear on the arrangements.*
- *The commissioning of 'Luv to Meet U' – a friendship and dating agency for people with a learning disability.*



All of these improvements will have a positive impact on maximising a person's independence and minimising social isolation.

In their report to the Cabinet in March 2012, the Panel identified areas where progress had still not been made as they would have hoped and a number of additional recommendations were made.

The Well-Being and Communities Scrutiny Panel has also committed to following up progress in 12 months' time.

Teenage Conception



The issue of teenage pregnancy had been on the work programme of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel as a monitoring item since April 2009, with the Panel receiving regular progress updates.

In January 2010, the Panel was presented with information from the Teenage Pregnancy National Support Team which highlighted that:-

- *In 2007, Kirklees had an under 18 conception rate per 1,000 females aged 15- 17, 10% higher than the England average of 41.7 per 1,000.*
- *Five (21%) of Kirklees' wards were "hotspots" with rates among the highest 20% in England (2004-06 data).*

The Scrutiny Panel felt that teenage conception rates in Kirklees warranted a more detailed and focused piece of work and in January 2011, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee approved the setting up of an Ad Hoc Panel to look into teenage conception in Kirklees.

The Ad Hoc Panel agreed to consider the following areas:-

- *To understand the picture of teenage conception in Kirklees – giving consideration to any trends which may include ethnicity and demographics.*
- *To determine what is required under PSHCE ed in relation to sex education and to understand the impact of this on the teenage conception rate.*
- *To assess what support is available for, preventing teenage conception, pregnant teenage mothers and young fathers to be and teenage parents.*
- *To identify any gaps in provision.*

Information was gathered from a wide range of witnesses which seemed to suggest that the factors that contribute to teenage conception are wide ranging and complex, and the solution to reducing teenage conception in Kirklees will not be a simple one.

The Panel visited a young mothers group and heard first hand about their experiences.

The Scrutiny Review concluded with a comprehensive report listing 10 recommendations which was presented to Cabinet on 19 June 2012.

Young Person

"Having a child has had a positive effect on my previously irresponsible behaviour and has given me something positive to focus on in order to get my life back on track".

Ninety percent of the recommendations were accepted by Cabinet. The recommendations included:-

That a resource pack specifically for parents and carers be developed by the Teenage Pregnancy Joint Commissioning Group to ensure that messages on sexual health can be discussed within the home.

That the services that provide support to teenage parents and young people should be easily accessible and should be actively encouraged to work towards achieving the Kirklees Young People Friendly kite-mark.

That there should be no diminution in the levels of support currently available to pregnant teenagers and teenage parents.

Young Person

"Found Sure Start via friends or health visitors and have used this provision to access things such as the Cook & Eat course and Paediatric 1st Aid"

Involving Young People in Scrutiny

During 2010 the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel was approached by the Directorate to explore ways to greater involve young people in the work of scrutiny. After initial discussions with the Involving Young Citizens Equally (IYCE) Team, Scrutiny considered a number of approaches.



With support from IYCE, Scrutiny asked young people to present one item that was important to them and which they would like to be involved in investigating. Young people stated that they needed better careers and education advice before they reached age 16 to help them make more informed choices; and that there should be more practical hands-on support to fill in forms, make phone enquiries and to help out with finances.

It was therefore decided that Scrutiny, with the help of young people, would look at 'Jobs, Opportunities and Money'.



The Panel started by identifying work carried out by the Council to improve access to jobs, opportunities and money as well as gaining an understanding of the relevant Government policies. The Panel worked with young people to develop ideas

for tasks that they themselves could carry out to gather evidence for the review and which would explore the concerns of young people in more detail.

A wide range of young people were involved in the project including; youth councillors, college students, young offenders, young mums, looked after children and youth groups. The young people devised questionnaires, undertook mystery shopping, interviewed their peers and analysed financial literature aimed at young people.

In a recent inspection, Ofsted commented on the fact that this level of engagement had the potential to increase the number of looked after children being able to have their say and could encourage more looked after children to get involved in the Youth Council.

In February 2012 the evidence from young people along with specific questions were fed back to officers from the Learning Service and Connexions Service.

The Panel are due to complete their report shortly and will be working with young people to identify their final comments and conclusions for the project. It is anticipated that the young people may wish to choose one of the recommendations to champion and take forward as a Youth Council Priority.



Social Media



Social Media continued to be an important part of how Scrutiny communicates to an increasingly wider audience. Details of all Scrutiny meetings including agendas and whether they were being web-cast were tweeted prior to the meetings taking place. As a result of regular tweeting the numbers of Scrutiny followers increased significantly.

Scrutiny Website

The Scrutiny web pages also provide a valuable source of information on the work of Scrutiny. Visitors were able to find information on the work of the individual panels, as well as latest news, Scrutiny processes and the difference Scrutiny work had made. <http://bit.ly/sDiOZU>

Following up on Safeguarding Recommendations

The Commission into Kirklees Safeguarding Services was established by Cabinet in February 2009, in the Council's capacity as lead agency for Safeguarding children in the Kirklees area. Scrutiny was assigned the lead role in organising the work of the Commission.



The Commission looked at a number of key areas including:

- *The effectiveness of the Council's Child Protection Services.*
- *The identification and prevention of maltreatment to children.*
- *The effectiveness of the Safeguarding Board.*
- *Scrutiny and accountability.*

The Commission completed its work in August 2009 making 54 recommendations within the areas of prevention and early intervention, child protection, assessment and care management, multi-agency

working, social care workforce issues and governance.

In September 2010, the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel invited the Programme Director for Safeguarding Improvements to provide an update on the 54 recommendations to consider whether the recommendations had been completed or whether actions were still required.

As a result the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel produced a detailed progress report which highlighted where there had been positive progress and where there were still areas of concern that needed addressing. An additional 5 Scrutiny recommendations resulted from this piece of work.

In November 2011, the Panel reassessed the progress of the recommendations learning that 36 had been completed with remaining actions falling within the themes of; Early Prevention and Family Support, Social Work Practice and Workforce Development.

The Panel was informed that any outstanding actions with regards to family support and early prevention would be incorporated in the review taking place within the service.

The Panel were satisfied with the progress that had been made against the original recommendations.

Co-optee Goodbyes.....

At the end of the 2011/12 municipal year a number of our co-optees stepped down and Scrutiny would like to acknowledge their hard work and commitment and say thank you and goodbye to:

- *Ian Steele*
- *Peter Walker*
- *Nancy Tuke*
- *Liz Goldthorpe*
- *Karin Westeman*
- *David Pinder*
- *Lisa Jones*
- *Robin Schofield*

Scrutiny would like to wish them all the best for the future.

Early Intervention Review - Notice of Concern and Call In

Notice of Concern and Call-In are specific powers that Scrutiny has to ensure that decisions made in Kirklees are in the interests of all Councillors and the Public. Where there is concern about an imminent decision to be taken by Cabinet; members are able to follow the formal procedures of Notice of Concern and Call-In.

In March 2012, concerns were raised with the Lead Member of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel, about the Early Intervention Strategy and changes to the Family Support and Children's Centre Services in Kirklees. After careful consideration, the Chair issued a Notice of Concern outlining the following grounds for concern:-

- *That information relevant and critical to Cabinet being able to make an informed decision was missing in the report being presented to Cabinet and that such information should be made available prior to a decision being taken.*
- *That there were concerns in respect of the public consultation that had taken place on changes to family support and children's centre services in Kirklees.*

At the Cabinet meeting on 13 March 2012, Cabinet Members heard the full Notice of Concern and were able to hear additional information from senior officers of the Council before Cabinet made the final decision to approve the revised proposals.

Members also have the power to 'Call-In' decisions asking decision-makers to think again if they believe that the decision is in contravention of the Council's Decision-Making Principles.

When a valid 'Call-In' is received, all actions to implement a decision are suspended for two weeks so that the appropriate Scrutiny Panel can meet to consider all relevant papers considered by the Cabinet. Scrutiny then has the ability to question council officers and Cabinet members and to hear evidence from any interested parties and members of the public.

On 19 March 2012 the decision made by Cabinet in respect of the Early Intervention Strategy: *Changes to Family Support and Children's Centres in Kirklees* was 'called in' for review by six councillors on the basis that it was felt the decision contradicted the Council's commitment to open and transparent decision making. It was also felt that there was failure to disclose sufficient detailed information around the options that would have

enabled the public to properly and fully understand the implications of the proposed changes.

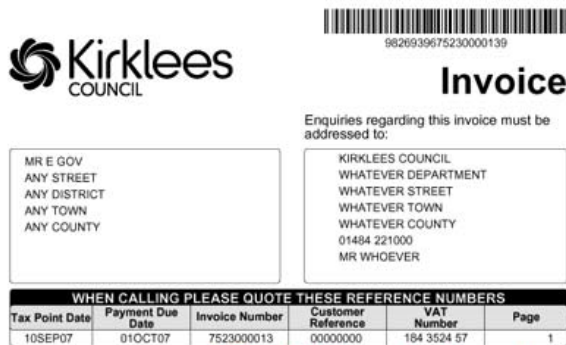
On 3 April 2012 the Children and Young People Panel spent 7 hours hearing from witnesses as well as studying written evidence.

After weighing up all the evidence the Panel was satisfied that the decision was made in accordance with the Council's decision-making principles and freed the decision for implementation. The Panel did however, make a number of recommendations requiring that Cabinet clarify the outcome of the decision and explain the intention to involve service users in further developing the delivery of services and use of Children's Centres.



Charges & Payment of Adult Social Care Invoices

During the work programming process in June/July 2011, Scrutiny received a referral from two members of the public asking that a review of payment invoicing for adult care charges be undertaken, with a particular focus on the invoicing process. Members of the Well-Being & Communities Scrutiny Panel had also been aware of a number of further concerns that had been expressed by members of the public, and therefore agreed to commission an Assigned Task to look at the payment invoicing for adult social care charges.



The Fair Access to Care Services Criteria (FACS) is used to determine if a person is eligible for statutory social care services, and if deemed eligible, then those services are chargeable. As a person's needs are assessed, points are awarded which convert into pounds and provide an individual's personal budget. Individuals can choose to manage their own budget or for the Council to do this on their behalf.

Once the personal budget is allocated, a financial assessment is carried out to determine if a person has the resources to contribute to their package of care.

Members of the Assigned Task met a number of times and developed an understanding of how charges for adult social care were invoiced. All local councillors and MPs were also invited them to submit either positive or negative feedback on experiences of the invoicing process, that had arisen through their work with constituents.

Members of the Assigned Task put together a report of their findings, setting out a number of key views including:

- That both staff and service users should be made aware that the use of credit cards incurs a charge to the Council and that this should be clearly stated on literature and where possible, in person.
- That the invoicing system should be amended so that bank holidays are removed from the invoicing process at the beginning of the year, so that service users are not billed for these dates and later refunded. Where service users attend on an alternative day, and are not eligible for a refund, accurate and prompt registers

submitted by day care facilities would enable service users to be accurately billed.

- That the Council should make the invoicing processes as easy to understand as possible and that consideration be given to an online service to check accounts.
- That where there have been delays in providing invoices, and large bills have accumulated, all service users should be offered a payment plan to repay outstanding amounts.
- That service users should be given sufficient time to consider the implication of increased charges and the ability to choose whether they wish to continue receiving the service in that way. If a service user has not been informed in advance of an increase to charges, they should not be charged for the increase in the period during which they were unaware of the change.
- That the Council should undertake a full analysis of the impact of the Welfare Reform Act.

Ten recommendations for improvement were made to the Cabinet in June 2012, and the Panel intend to check on the progress made towards implementation after twelve months.

Scrutiny of the Community Safety Partnership

During 2011/12, the Well-Being & Communities Scrutiny Panel was designated as the statutory scrutiny panel for crime and disorder. This requires the Scrutiny Panel to hold at least one meeting each year, sitting as the Crime & Disorder Committee – which happened in January 2012.

The Committee's role is to review, scrutinise and make reports or recommendations to the responsible authorities of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) – i.e. the police, police authority, local council, fire, health, and probation services. The Committee must act as a 'critical friend' to the CSP and partner organisations who comprise it, providing a constructive challenge at a strategic level.

This year saw a new approach to the meeting, with the Panel Lead Member holding an extensive range of briefings beforehand as part of the preparations for the Committee – this included discussions with the Chair of the Community Safety Partnership, the Head of Safe & Cohesive Communities, and the West Yorkshire Police Authority representative on the Panel.

The briefings enabled the Lead Member, in consultation with the Scrutiny Panel, to

identify a number of key areas for discussion this included:

- The Community Safety Partnership priorities with a focus on: anti social behaviour, crime and preventing re-offending, and cohesive and resilient communities.
- Future changes in respect of Police & Crime Commissioners, and Police & Crime Panels.

Going forward into 2012/13, responsibility for crime and disorder has transferred to the Development & Environment Scrutiny Panel, who will look to build on the new approach initiated during this year.

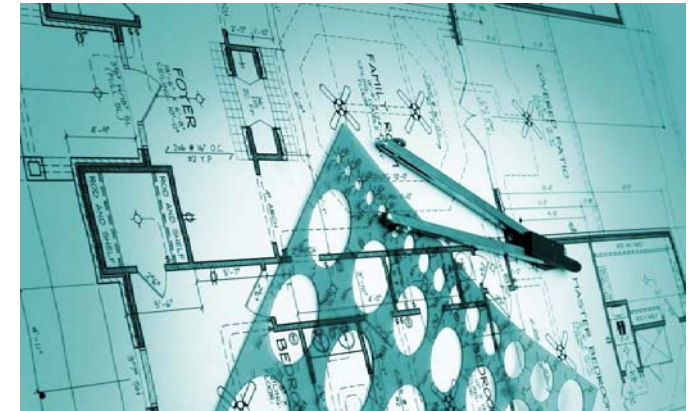
Kirklees Planning Service

In August 2011 the Development and Environment Scrutiny Panel agreed to set up an assigned task to review aspects of how Planning Services were delivered in Kirklees.

The Panel looked at a number of areas of planning work that included assessing the effectiveness of efficiency measures that have been introduced by the Planning Service; establishing how the Planning Service intended to address the planning reforms; reviewing the Scheme of Delegation to Officers covering

planning matters; and reviewing the enforcement processes and procedures and their effectiveness.

The Panel received input from a number of officers across the Planning Service and gathered the views of planning customers and Kirklees councillors by way of a postal questionnaire.



The report made a number of recommendations including further improvements to the Planning website; the need to focus on providing ongoing and timely updates on planning applications; looking at ways of encouraging more investment from the private sector in Kirklees listed buildings; and investigating the feasibility of an upfront refundable planning conditions fee.

Fairer Contributions Policy

In January 2012, the Well-Being & Communities Scrutiny Panel met with officers to discuss the Council's consultation on proposed amendments to the Fairer Contributions Policy. Two changes to the Policy were being proposed:

1. To increase the financial contribution a person pays towards the cost of their care from 67% to 100% from a person's disposable income.



2. To remove the upper limit for contributions, which would mean removing the cap of £205.00 on the weekly charge.

Scrutiny was mindful that this was an emotive issue, which was generating a significant amount of attention amongst local people and in the press.

The Panel agreed that following the briefing, they would submit a formal response to the

consultation and that this response would be appended to the Cabinet report when a decision was due to be made.

The Panel was understanding of the need for change and agreed with the increase to 100% as this would ensure fairer contributions.

However, they raised concern about the proposal to entirely remove the upper limit for contributions as they felt that this may act as a barrier to an individual accepting care. It was felt that the absence of a maximum cap could result in people imagining an unrealistic worst case scenario and being reluctant to seek help.

The Panel therefore formally proposed an alternative course of action to the Cabinet – to introduce a maximum weekly charge that was comparable with a council funded place in residential care.

In February, the Cabinet met to consider the responses to the consultation on the Fairer Contributions Policy including the Scrutiny submission. The Cabinet subsequently agreed to amend their original proposal to remove the upper limit for contributions, and to instead introduce a maximum weekly charge that was comparable with residential care as proposed by Scrutiny.

Making Open Data Real Government Consultation

Members of the Resources Scrutiny Panel formed a small project group to feed into the Council's response to the Government's consultation on Making Open Data Real.

The Making Open Data Real agenda is the Government's intention to promote a culture of openness and transparency within public services and the proposed approach is to create a 'pull' (an enhanced right to data) and a 'push' (a presumption of publication).

The consultation which ran between August and October 2011, set a series of questions which included:-

- *What would be appropriate mechanisms to encourage or ensure publication of data by public service providers?*
- *If the costs to publish or release data are not judged to represent value for money, to what extent should the requestor be required to pay for public services data, and under what circumstances?*

The project group felt that this agenda could have significant implications for the Council and provided a comprehensive response to the consultation. Further information and the possible publication of a white paper is awaited.

Children's Congenital Cardiac Services

Following a national review of children's congenital cardiac services in England and Wales, a proposal was put forward to reduce the number of NHS hospitals that provide heart surgery for children.

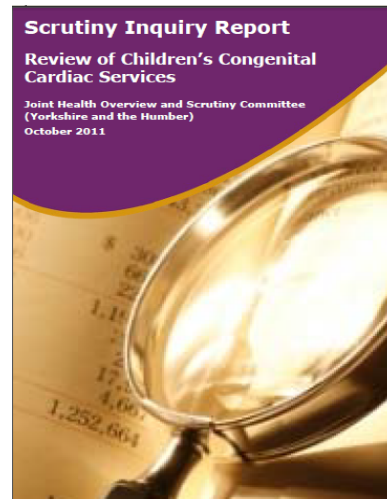
Four options were being consulted upon, three of which did not include Leeds General Infirmary and would require local residents to travel to Newcastle or Liverpool.

The NHS has a statutory duty to formally consult with scrutiny on proposals that represent a substantial variation to local health services. The Secretary of State also requires that where the proposals cut across a number of local authorities, that a Joint Health Scrutiny Committee should be formed to consider and formally respond to the proposals and consultation. A Regional Joint Health Scrutiny, made up of scrutiny councillors from across Yorkshire and the Humber, was therefore established at the beginning of the municipal year.

The Committee published its final report in October 2011, following an intensive period of evidence gathering, concluding that any option that did not include Leeds would deliver a significantly worse patient experience for children and families across Yorkshire and the Humber. The Committee put forward an alternative model for the configuration of designated surgical centres.

In July 2012, the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts (JCPCT) met in London to make their decision on the future configuration of children's congenital heart services. Cllr Smaje, as the Council's representative on the Regional Joint Health Scrutiny Committee, attended the meeting and was able to make a short representation at the beginning of the meeting. However, the JCPCT's final decision did not include Leeds as a specialist surgical centre.

Three weeks later, the Regional Joint Health Scrutiny Committee held a six hour meeting to consider this decision. Scrutiny has legislative powers to refer NHS decisions around substantial service changes to the Secretary of State for Health if it does not deem the proposals to be in the interests of local health services.



The Committee concluded that they would refer the decision to the Secretary of State, and submitted an immediate letter notifying him of their intention; this will be followed by a more detailed report in September 2012.

Co-optee Welcome.....

In February 2012, a recruitment exercise was undertaken to recruit a new cohort of Co-optees and Scrutiny would like to welcome:

- *Arif Ahmad*
- *William Bradshaw*
- *Ian Brierley*
- *John Briggs*
- *Charlie Coates*
- *Tim Duke*
- *Ken Gledhill*
- *Kimberley Stock*
- *Alan Willington*
- *Christopher Woolnough*

Scrutiny Panel Work Programmes in Brief - 2011/12

In addition to the key pieces of work already mentioned, each Scrutiny Panel had on its work programme a number of other issues that it also considered throughout the year, these issues are listed below

(Please note that the issues listed contain headline information only)

<p>Well-Being and Communities Scrutiny Panel Cllr Viv Kendrick (Lead Member) Cllr Andrew Marchington Cllr Elizabeth Smaje Cllr Amanda Stubbley Cllr Lisa Holmes Cllr Andrew Cooper Kiran Bali Nancy Tuke Liz Goldthorpe Jeff Peers Karin Westeman</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putting People First • Early Diagnosis & Intervention • Kirklees Active Leisure • New Health Arrangements • Scrutiny of Crime & Disorder • Ambulance Response time • Respite Care Services • Mid Yorkshire Hospital Reconfiguration • Yorkshire Ambulance Service Foundation Trust Application • South West Yorkshire Partnership Foundation Trust re Mental Health Services • Forthcoming NHS Reviews • Pain Management • Health Inequalities Programme • Alcohol Strategy • Police Reform & Social Responsibility Bill
<p>Development and Environment Scrutiny Panel Cllr Ken Sims (Lead Member) Cllr Vivien Lees-Hamilton Cllr Steve Hall Cllr Andrew Marchington Cllr Carole Pattison Cllr James Blanchard Jane Gledhill Ian Steele Ray Firth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kirklees Economic & Sustainable Investment Strategy • Housing Strategy in a Changing Landscape • Streetscene • Section 106 • Road Signage & Markings • Flood Risk Management in Kirklees • Housing Future – Options Appraisals • Local Development Framework • Changes to Business Rates system
<p>Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel Cllr Cahal Burke (Lead Member) Cllr Mahmood Akhtar Cllr Donna Bellamy Cllr Hanif Mayet Cllr Carole Pattison Cllr Beryl Smith Margaret Dobson Sajid Mirza Richard Burge Kirsten Barker</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IYCE (Jobs, opportunities and money) • Early Intervention Review • The Child Poverty Strategy • Educational Attainment & Safeguarding Performance • Academies Consultation Review • The Pupil Premium & the Financial Management of Schools

Resources Scrutiny Panel

Cllr Julie Stewart-Turner (Lead Member)
Cllr John Cook
Cllr Eric Firth
Cllr David Hall
Cllr Hilary Richards
Cllr David Ridgway
Linda Summers
Peter Walker
Philip Chaloner

- **Innovation and Efficiency Programme**
- **Organisation Modernisation and Workforce Development**
- **Employee Well-Being and Support**
- **Officer Delegated Decisions**
- **Mobile Libraries**
- **Customer Excellence/Customer Strategy**



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