

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report

2013/14

OS

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Chair's foreword

2013/14 has been another busy year for Scrutiny with a diverse range of issues being looked at. This Annual Report highlights some of the key areas looked at by Panels over the course of the 104 meetings and briefings that have taken place during the year.

Areas of scrutiny work ranged from the management and treatment of Tuberculosis in Kirklees to the Comprehensive Spending Review and twenty mile per hour speed limits.

Scrutiny of Health Services across the Kirklees area has remained high on Scrutiny's priorities with Scrutiny working hard to ensure that it develops effective relationships with Health Partners and remains informed about proposals as they emerge.

I would also like to take the opportunity to acknowledge and thank all those people who contributed to, and supported the work of Scrutiny during my time as Chair.



Chair of Scrutiny 2013/14
Councillor Nigel Patrick



Panel Membership - 2013/14

Children & Young People Panel	Development & Environment Panel
Cllr Cahal Burke (Lead Member)	Cllr Ken Sims (Lead Member)
Cllr Mahmood Akhtar	Cllr Andrew Marchington
Cllr Donna Bellamy	Cllr Vivien Lees-Hamilton
Cllr Naheed Mather	Cllr Karen Rowling
Cllr Hanif Mayet	Co-optees: Ian Brierley, Ray Firth, Tim Duke
Cllr Phil Scott	
Co-optees: Linda Summer, Richard Burge, Margaret Dobson, Sajid Mirza	
Resources Panel	Wellbeing & Communities Panel
Cllr Donald Firth (Lead Member)	Cllr Viv Kendrick (Lead Member)
Cllr Andrew Marchington	Cllr Robert Barraclough
Cllr Steve Hall	Cllr Mark Hemingway
Cllr Carole Pattison	Cllr Judith Hughes
Cllr Cliff Preest	Cllr Liz Smaje
Cllr Julie Stewart-Turner	Cllr Amanda Stubbley
Co-optees: William Bradshaw, John Briggs, Philip Chaloner	Co-optees: Jane Gledhill, Jeff Peers, Laurence Walker, Peter Mackle

Thanks...

No look back at a full year of scrutiny work would be complete without saying thank you to all panel members, voluntary co-optees, officers and partners who have contributed in making it an effective year.

What's new?

Petitions hearing

Kirklees Council's Petitions Scheme enables a petition containing over 3,000 signatures to either trigger a discussion at a full council meeting or, if the petitioners wish to they can ask Scrutiny to consider the issue by discussing the reasons for the decision with the lead officer. This would allow the petitioner to give evidence at a public meeting of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or one of the scrutiny panels.

On the 9th October 2013 Scrutiny held its first petition hearing, with the Development and Environment Scrutiny Panel considering a petition in respect of the introduction of one payment method for the payment of council rents via Direct Debit.

There was an opportunity for the petitioners and other members of the public to address the panel and contribute their views. The panel also heard from, and questioned, the Cabinet member responsible for the decision and senior officers from the Streetscene and Housing Services.



Young people and Scrutiny

Corporate parenting

In December 2013, the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel received a presentation on corporate parenting, which outlined the role the council and councillors have as corporate parents for looked after children. Also in attendance at the meeting were two formerly looked after children who shared their experience with the panel.

The panel was informed that every support possible should be available to ensure that looked after children have the best possible outcomes in life and achieve their full potential. This includes areas of education, health, welfare and achievement of their aspirations as they enter adulthood.

Councillors were encouraged to get to know about looked after children in their constituency and to be a champion for looked after children to ensure that the council is considering their needs in all aspects of service development.

The panel views corporate parenting as very important and will seek to ensure that it remains a priority.

Town centre strategy

The Development and Environment Scrutiny Panel identified that they wanted to look at the regeneration of Huddersfield and Dewsbury town centres, including a holistic look at the needs of the town, footfall, public transport, car parking etc.

Jacqui Gedman, Director of Place, and Peter McBride, Cabinet member for Investment and Regeneration, suggested Scrutiny could focus on the town centre strategies across both Dewsbury and Huddersfield, identifying the main area where Scrutiny could make a difference on the 'short term growth plans' that were being developed.

The panel identified that they also wanted to look at the 'implementation plans' and 'background to developing strategies' and the current work that was being carried out. The panel wanted to understand how the council could retain and increase regeneration within town centres whilst managing the pressures and difficulties faced in the current economic climate.

Young people visited Bury and Camden Market during their own town centre visits. To gather young people's views, the Our Voice Programme also completed town centre appraisals with young people in Huddersfield and Dewsbury, and also met with various groups across Kirklees.



Following on from their own town centre visits, the young people produced a document called 'Our Voice our Town' which summarised their findings at: http://www.kirkleesyc.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2013/11/Our-Voice_HSIF-Report.pdf.

The document explained that every young person who participated in a town centre visit (as part of the project) spent an average of £3. Therefore, if the 43,515 young people aged between 12-19, that live in Kirklees spent £3 each in town, every month, there'd be £130,545 contributing to the high street economy.

The panel included the young people's views within their Town Centre Strategy document, which is currently being finalised and approved by the panel.

Out and about

Huddersfield Customer Service Centre

The Resources Scrutiny Panel provided some input to the programme of work that was undertaken to provide customers with a single point of access and delivering service improvements for customers.

The panel have provided feedback based on its findings at the opening of the new Dewsbury Customer Service Centre which had influenced the development of the new Huddersfield Customer Service Centre.

As a part of this programme of work, the panel was invited to take a tour around the new Huddersfield Customer Service Centre and the Kirklees Direct call centre. The panel was given a guided tour and was shown where its feedback had influenced developments at the centre.

The panel went on to review how the lessons learned during the opening of the Dewsbury Centre had impacted on the development of the Huddersfield Centre and requested a report that evaluated the achievements of the Huddersfield and Dewsbury Customer Service Centres against the aims of the project.

Claremont House

Claremont House is a council-owned home that supports adults with dementia. In March 2013 the home was inspected by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and reported that improvements were required on a number of the national standards.

Following an update on the Council's response to the issues identified, members of the Well-Being and Communities Scrutiny Panel agreed that it would be extremely helpful to visit Claremont House in order to see first-hand how the actions were being implemented. The visit took place on the 8th October 2013 and it was agreed that the visit should be viewed as informal and that panel members would take a flexible approach to ensure that there was minimum disruption to both staff and residents of the home.



The visit included a tour of the home, an opportunity to talk to members of staff and included an invitation to relatives and families of residents to attend a question and answer session.

Feedback from panel members indicated that they found the visit extremely useful and were particularly pleased that there had been such a good turn out from family and relatives.

Discussions with residents' families and relatives were open and frank. The panel welcomed the positive approach taken by the council's management team who took on board the various ideas and suggestions that were put forward to help improve aspects of the care and service provided by the home.

Following further discussions with the Council's management team the panel agreed that it was satisfied with the actions that had been taken to address the issues identified by CQC and expressed confidence in the quality framework that had been put in place.

Museums and Galleries

To gain an insight into what was offered at museums across the district, the Development and Environment Panel undertook two days of site visits to see all the museums and galleries across Kirklees.

As part of its work programme, the panel focused on the reasons behind recent visitor number trends and the usage of museums and galleries. The Council's approach to tackling this had been highlighted as a service priority.

The site visits also included a visit to the independently owned Colne Valley Museum to provide some insight into what a private sector museum experience was like and how that might differ. The panel was also provided with information regarding the specialisms on offer at each of the different sites.

Following the visits, the panel identified that it would be useful for them to receive further information on the complete programme of activity being considered to tackle reduced visitor numbers and the future options being considered for the service in relation to the sustainability of museums across Kirklees Council.

Influencing

Sexual Health Task Group

Following the introduction of a new mandatory responsibility on the council to commission comprehensive open-access, accessible and confidential sexual health services, the Well-Being and Communities Scrutiny Panel agreed to set up a task group to look at the issue across Kirklees.

The Council's new responsibilities included responsibility for commissioning the testing, treatment and prevention of sexually transmitted infections as well as sexual health promotion and the prevention of poor sexual health.

The Panel received an initial briefing on the new Department of Health's Public Health Outcomes Framework 2013-16 which included three key outcomes relevant to sexual health:

1. People presenting with HIV at a late stage of infection.
2. Under 18 conceptions.
3. Chlamydia diagnosis (15-24 year olds).

Over the next 12 months the task group heard from a range of professionals, as well as visiting current provisions to gain a full picture of the current position in Kirklees. It was a complex and detailed piece of work and councillors began to pull together some clear and consistent views about their findings and recommendations.

The recommendations focused on:

- Achieving a greater level of consistency and quality in the services offered across Kirklees.
- A need to relook at the referral, assessment and screening process, with a suggestion of amending the contractual arrangements to introduce 'one general assessment' for sexual health in order to test for a number of STI's.
- A rethink on the communications and marketing approach, including an information review and a 'smart' campaign to make the best use of apps and social media.
- The recommendations of the task group have been very timely in influencing the development of the new Sexual Health Services contract which will be in place from April 2015.



Princess Royal Community Hospital

During 2013/14 the panel was made aware of plans by Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust (CHFT) to close the Princess Royal Community Hospital.

In response to these plans the panel became actively involved in this issue with a specific focus on the work being developed by CHFT to relocate the services that were provided at the Huddersfield site.

Following a presentation of the draft consultation plans and documents, CHFT agreed to take account of the panel's feedback and views.

The panel's feedback resulted in amendments to the documents, leading to a simpler and clearer proposition and making it much easier for people to understand the planned changes.

Comprehensive Spending Review Task Group

Throughout the 2013/14 municipal year a Task Group, established by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, met to consider the work of Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) and budget preparation.

The Task Group members were:

Councillor Nigel Patrick (Chair)

Councillor Julie Stewart Turner

Philip Chaloner – Co-optee (Resources Panel)

Linda Summers – Co-optee (Children and Young Peoples Panel)

Ian Brierley – Co-optee (Development and Environment Panel)

Jeff Peers – Co-optee (Well-Being and Communities Panel)

The Task Group provided a rigorous challenge to the CSR work and was able to influence some aspects of the work as it progressed. For example in suggesting amendments to the content of the formal budget consultation document.

The Task Group produced findings and recommendations in the following areas:

- Consultation
- The learning from the 2014/15 budget process
- The Essential Council
- Additional CSR Work on themes
- Engagement with Councillors
- Moving the decision making process forward

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee has signed off the findings and recommendations of the Task Group and the completed report will be finalised shortly.



Scrutiny of partners

Work with Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust (CHFT) – Princess Royal Community Hospital

As mentioned previously, during 2013/14 the panel were made aware of plans by Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust (CHFT) to close the Princess Royal Community Hospital.

The panel was informed that the site was at an age and condition that required a major investment to the buildings and infrastructure and due to CHFT's limited capital and revenue budget, keeping the site open was not a financially viable option.

The panel took a proactive approach to reviewing the provision of services on the site which included assessing the timescales of the proposals and looking in some detail at the various services provided at the site.

The panel agreed that the proposals related to the relocation of the Child Development Unit (known as the Eilerslie Centre) was a 'significant variation' in service and CHFT agreed to formally consult with the panel on the plans.

CHFT agreed to take account of the panel's feedback and views, which resulted in amendments to the documents. The panel felt these changes created a simpler and clearer proposition and made it much easier for people to understand the planned changes.

Work is continuing with this issue and the panel will be presented with the results from the public consultation that took place during summer 2014.

The intention is for the panel to continue to have input into the relocation of the Child Development Unit as well as maintaining an overview of the work that is taking place to find new locations for the other services.

Working with Clinical Commissioning Groups and Healthwatch Kirklees Council

The Well-Being and Communities Scrutiny Panel has an important and proactive role to play in helping to understand communities and tackle health inequalities. The panel also needs to monitor the intentions of commissioners of health service and to be assured that the planning and delivery of healthcare is right for local people.

There is an expectation that there is local accountability of health services and that health scrutiny will develop strong working relationships and good communication with key health organisations that include the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) and Local Healthwatch.

During 2013/14 the panel worked closely with Greater Huddersfield and North Kirklees CCG's through regular briefing sessions with the Lead Member and discussions with the full panel. This regular dialogue has developed into a mutual understanding of how the relationship will operate and includes having open and honest discussions and ongoing communication to share forward planning and work programmes.

Work also started on developing a robust relationship with Healthwatch Kirklees. Early discussions indicated a strong desire to work together to ensure that local people had a stronger voice and to help drive improvements in health and social care services.

During the year Scrutiny and Healthwatch shared details of their respective work programmes and identified common areas of interest. Healthwatch has been involved in regular briefings with the panel and attended full panel meetings to present updates on its work programme and highlight key issues that have been identified through the knowledge and feedback it has received from local people.

During 2014/15 more work will take place to strengthen the relationship and to explore ways for Scrutiny and Healthwatch to provide each other with effective support.



Panel Work Programmes 2013/14

Children and Young People Panel	
Adoption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring progress on the adoption recruitment campaign Monitoring the progress made to increase the numbers of adoptive parents. Considering the initial plans for National Adoption Week 2013.
Child and Adolescent Mental Health (Camhs/Chews)	The panel received an update on how the newly commissioned tier 2 service was progressing and spoke to providers of the service.
Safeguarding	The panel were briefed in order to develop a better understanding of the role, responsibilities and priorities of the Safeguarding Board.
Review Of Integrated Youth Support Service	The panel received an update on the chosen model and implementation process.
<p>Task Group work regarding bereavement support for young people in schools. Sub groups arranged for 'educational attainment and safeguarding' and 'changes to services for deaf and hearing impaired children'.</p>	
Resources Panel	
The changing face of Kirklees	<p>The panel focused on 'workforce development', with the addition of the below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The importance of ensuring that the organisation develops a workforce that is fit for purpose and has the skills to meet the future needs of the council. A workforce that has the right age profile. The need to ensure that staff are properly supported during this time of change.
Powerhouse	<p>The panel scrutinised the progress of the new IT system, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An overview of the Powerhouse programme across the organisation. The implementation phase. The work that was being carried out on training and supporting council staff.
Business Rates	The panel considered the localisation of Business Rates, which included an overview of the 'Kirklees Business Hub' that was designed to assist local businesses in the district.
Asset Disposal Strategy	The panel scrutinised the Asset Disposal Strategy with a particular focus on the consultation and communication elements.
Dormant trust accounts	<p>The panel received an update on progress of the work that was agreed last year, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A traffic light prioritisation list to highlight the key trusts that will require review by the council. A list that identifies those trusts that have assets and are actively managed and those that are dormant and pose little or no risk to the council.
Customer Service Centres	The panel continued to review aspects of the work that was being done to provide customers with a single point of access and deliver service improvement for customers.

Panel Work Programmes

2013/14

Development & Environment Panel	
Museums and galleries	The panel focused on gathering an understanding of why museums visitor numbers and museum usage were reducing.
Community capacity building	The panel received information on the three year pilot programme and the areas/communities chosen for the pilot, to enable them to have input in the early stages of development of the programme.
Connecting communities	The panel received information on the implementation plans associated with the Connecting Communities Statement of Intent.
<p>Task Group work took place on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Centre Strategy • 20 mph speed limits • Building Services <p>The panel also has statutory responsibility to review, scrutinise and make report and or recommendations to the responsible authorities of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP).</p>	
Wellbeing & Communities Panel	
Pre-Payment Cards	The Panel was briefed on a new initiative being explored by the Council to introduce a pre-payment card that could be used by people to manage their own personal budgets for arranging adult support and care.
NHS Reviews	The Panel, designated as the health overview and scrutiny committee, was actively involved in a number of projects throughout the year that included the Calderdale and Huddersfield health and social care strategic review and Relocation of services from the Princess Royal Community Hospital.
Kirklees Tuberculosis Review	The Panel established a Task Group to review the issue of TB in Kirklees where there has been a steady increase in the incidence of the disease since 2004.
Immunisation Programmes	The Panel was briefed on the new arrangements for the commissioning of national immunisation programmes and the work undertaken at a local level.
Implications of Francis Inquiry	Members of the Panel attended a workshop that covered the outcomes of the Francis Inquiry and the implications for Scrutiny. An action plan detailing key actions has been developed and these will be progressed during 2014/15.
Claremont House	The Panel considered the Council's response to the issues identified by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection of Claremont House in March 2013. Work included a visit to the home which provided panel members with an opportunity to discuss issues raised by the CQC with staff and families and relatives of residents.

A word from the Chair of Scrutiny for 2014/15

Firstly, in my role as the incoming Chair of Overview & Scrutiny, I'd like to thank Councillor Nigel Patrick for all the work he has undertaken over his last three years as Chair of Overview & Scrutiny. I would also like to thank the voluntary co-optees for their ongoing commitment to the work of Overview & Scrutiny.

As you know I am a firm believer and advocate of the scrutiny process and the opportunities I feel it gives non-executive councillors to better understand how the Council works and to influence the decision making process.

The immediate issue for me as the new Chair is to consider how Overview & Scrutiny can operate effectively within a new Council structure. Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee will be leading a piece of work that gives us the opportunity to consider what must be part of the scrutiny function going forward, what changes this means and how we ensure this is embedded within the new Council. Proposals will be brought forward to Council later in the municipal year.

I am also looking at the role of Overview & Scrutiny in decision making, in particular how it influences decisions before they are made and I want to renew the focus of Overview & Scrutiny in this area.



Chair of Scrutiny

Councillor Julie Stewart Turner



Looking forward – Key priorities

Scrutiny refresh

The 2014/15 budget identified the need to look at the requirements for Scrutiny in a reshaped Council. In 2014 the Scrutiny Management Committee will be considering what the Scrutiny function might look like going forward. This will be informed by understanding the statutory requirements and key roles of Scrutiny. There will be conversations with stakeholders to get their thoughts on the function and how it might work in the future.

The Management Committee will then develop a proposal for consideration by the full Council.

New and ongoing health scrutiny

The Well-Being and Communities Scrutiny Panel has been designated as the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the Council and has a statutory responsibility to be consulted on proposals for substantial developments or variations to health services in the area. In addition when proposals for substantial variations cover more than one local authority area, a joint committee must be formed by those local authorities that are consulted.

During 2013/14 the panel and the authority have been actively involved in a number of projects and it is anticipated that this high level of activity will continue into 2014/15 as new projects emerge.

Current and expected projects include:

- **Calderdale and Huddersfield health and social care strategic review**

This review will be assessed by a joint committee established between Calderdale and Kirklees Councils that will consider the implications of a new proposed future service for health and social care that will include establishing two specialist hospitals (one delivering services for people that have an emergency or are acutely unwell and the other specialising in provision of planned hospital treatments).
- **Mid Yorkshire clinical services/transformation programme**

Joint scrutiny arrangements between Wakefield and Kirklees Councils are in place and during 2013/14 the committee referred its concerns to the Secretary of State for Health. Following advice from the Independent Review Panel the Secretary of State concluded that it would not be appropriate to move to a full independent review. However the joint committee has agreed to continue its work to oversee the implementation of the proposals.
- **Relocation of services from the Princess Royal Community Hospital**

During 2013/14 the Well-Being and Communities Scrutiny Panel was actively involved in the work being developed by the Calderdale and Huddersfield Foundation Trust on the proposals to move the Child Development Unit (CDU) and other services from the Princess Royal Community Hospital site. The panel will be presented with the results of the consultation on the CDU that took place during the summer months of 2014 and will continue to maintain an overview on the relocation of the other services.
- **New review of congenital heart services in England**

During 2013/14 joint arrangements that involved authorities across Yorkshire and the Humber referred the proposals that resulted from a review of children's congenital heart services to the Secretary of State for Health. The referral led to a review of the proposals by the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) whose recommendations and advice were accepted in full. In June 2013 it was announced that the safe and sustainable review of children's congenital heart services could not proceed as planned. A new review has now been established that will consider the whole lifetime pathway of care for people with congenital heart disease and during 2014/15 the joint committee will consider the proposals and outcomes associated with the new review.

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 decision. Scrutiny aims to:

- improve services for local people and their communities,
- ensure Cabinet is accountable to the public,
- improve the performance of the council's services,
- improve the performance of other public services for which the council has responsibility or is a stakeholder in, and
- 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 Governance & Democratic Engagement Officers. A Management Committee leads and manages the overall process, with four thematic panels delivering an annual work programme of activity. Task groups may be set up 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 structure are made up of councillors from across the political groups. Councillors aim to 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. Carrying out effective scrutiny takes a lot of time, commitment and effort so it is not possible to look at every issue. When choosing issues, Scrutiny will consider whether it will make a real difference, and to who? 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. Scrutiny also cannot investigate regulatory or 'quasi-judicial' decisions, such as planning or licensing decisions.

How can the public get involved?

- Attend public meetings of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and the panels.
- Suggest a topic for scrutiny.
- Give evidence at a panel or send us your views.
- Join a pool of people interested in being co-opted on to a panel when vacancies are advertised.

Team contact details

Governance and Democratic Engagement Team

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Lead officer details

Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee

Penny Bunker, Governance & Democratic Engagement Manager

Children and Young People Panel

Jenny Bryce-Chan, Principal Governance & Democratic Engagement Officer

Development & Environment Panel

Alaina McGavin, Governance & Democratic Engagement Officer

Resources Panel

Penny Bunker, Governance & Democratic Engagement Manager

Wellbeing & Communities Panel

Richard Dunne, Principal Governance & Democratic Engagement Officer

Joint Health Scrutiny

Richard Dunne, Principal Governance & Democratic Engagement Officer

