

COUNTY COUNCIL

Meeting date: 13 February 2020

From: Chair of Scrutiny Management Board

SCRUTINY UPDATE REPORT

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 *This report updates Full Council on the work of Scrutiny and any issues and developments that have occurred since the last meeting of Full Council.*

2.0 ISSUES FOR FULL COUNCIL

2.1 *Members are asked to:*

Note the work programme presented as Appendix 1 and recent activity undertaken by Scrutiny set out in the report.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 In this report the Chair of Scrutiny Management Board would like to advise Members of the following issues:

Scrutiny Work Programme

3.2 The current Work Programme is attached as Appendix 1, which Members are asked to note.

3.3 Scrutiny Advisory Boards have been considering the following matters recently:

- Scrutiny Management Board met on 27 November where they received updates on the Performance Working Group and individual Boards. The Board considered and agreed the Scrutiny feedback on Strategic Planning to be submitted to Cabinet on the 19 December.
- The Communities and Place Board last met on the 25 November when they discussed the Council's equality objectives, rural strategy and lobbying, the approach to managing section 38 and 278 agreements, and an evaluation report on rapid response vehicles.
- The Children and Young Peoples Board met on 20 December where they considered an update on SEND, and contextual safeguarding.

- Health Scrutiny met on 10 December and considered how Primary Care Networks align with Integrated Care Communities, winter planning across the North and South of the county, and recruitment and retention of NHS staff. The committee also received an update on the progress made on the move to digital records.
- The Adults Board met on 16 January where they heard from the new Adult Social Care Leadership Team about the new structure for Adult Social Care, they received a report on the response to drug deaths in Furness, and discussed Delayed Transfers of Care and Safeguarding of Adults.
- The LEP Scrutiny Board last met on the 16 September and discussed the LEP Delivery Plan, how Cumbria LEP projects are identified, and the work plan for People, Employment and Skills.

Update from the Performance Working Group

- 3.4 The Scrutiny Performance Working Group met on 7 January when the 2019/20 Quarter 2 Performance Monitoring Report was considered. Members considered plans to address childhood obesity in the county, as well as Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service Performance.

Scrutiny Development Plan

- 3.5 The Development Plan draws on key themes from the scrutiny self-assessment, headlines from the research undertaken into Scrutiny practice in other authorities, and the new national guidance.
- 3.6 Work is underway refreshing the format of the Scrutiny Annual Report with use of additional communication channels to raise the profile of Scrutiny both within the Council and to the wider community.

Absence Management Task Group Review

- 3.7 Scrutiny Management Board (SMB) commissioned a one-day Task and Finish Group session, with a focus on absence management, organisational development and a specific deep dive into absence in the service areas with the highest levels of absence. This session was held on 14 November 2019 in County Hall, Kendal.
- 3.8 The Chair of SMB presented the Task and Finish Group's report and recommendations to Cabinet on 30 January. Cabinet agreed all of the five recommendations made by Scrutiny Members.

Call-Ins

- 3.9 A Call-In was received on 26 November 2019 in relation to the decision Cabinet made on 14 November 2019 to cease residential care at The Abbey in Staveley. A Call In meeting took place on the 18 December where it was resolved that this matter be referred back to Cabinet.
- 3.10 This referral was considered by Cabinet at the meeting on 30 January. The decision taken by Cabinet to cease residential care provision at The Abbey in Staveley was upheld. Cabinet restated its support to continue to work in partnership with the community to develop options for reshaped care services in Staveley.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Scrutiny of a wide range of issues continues to be kept under consideration by each Board.

Helen Blake
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31 January 2020

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Scrutiny Work Programme

REPORT AUTHOR

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