

COUNTY COUNCIL

Meeting date: 14 February 2019

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 recent activity undertaken by Scrutiny.*
- *Note the work programme provided as Appendix One.*

3.0 BACKGROUND

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

3.2 Scrutiny Work Programme

3.3 Members are invited to note the Work Programme presented as Appendix One to the report.

3.4 Additional Scrutiny activity:

3.5 Additional activity that has taken place since the last update to Council or key activity that is underway is noted below:

- Scrutiny Management Board last met on 22nd January to consider a Call In. This is detailed at 3.9. They will next meet on 12th March. Items will include delivery of the Customer Strategy and the Annual Report from Scrutiny. The Annual Report will be presented to Council in April.
- The Communities and Place Board last met on 20th November and considered delivery of the IRMP; the Borderlands Growth Deal and Local Industrial Strategy; and progress with the area planning approach.

- Children and Young Peoples Board met on 7th December. Key issues for discussion were progress with delivery of the Children's Improvement Plan; the refresh of the Children and Young Peoples Plan; and school attainment.
- Health Scrutiny met on 18th December and discussed items including a report from Healthwatch on learning difficulties; an update on the potential merger between CPFT and NCUH NHS Trust; and an update on digital records.
- The Adults Board last met on 17th January. Topics considered included Delayed Transfers of Care; the Promoting Independence Programme; and safeguarding adults.

3.6 Performance Working Group

3.7 The Performance Working Group last met on Friday 11th January to consider the Quarter Two Corporate Performance Report and received an overview of Cumbria Care Occupancy Rates and plans for the future of Children's Residential Care Services. Members of the Group also visited the North West Fire Control to follow up questions about variations in performance. The Group will meet again on Tuesday 16th April to consider the Quarter Three Performance of the Council Plan Delivery Plan with the Assistant Director Children and Families attending to provide a district level breakdown of the numbers of Children Looked After and discuss action is being taken to address pressures in parts of the county.

3.8 Call Ins

3.9 One Call In has been received since the last meeting of Council. The Call In was of the decision made on 20 December 2019 by Cabinet in relation to the 2020 -2021 School Admissions Arrangements. Scrutiny Management Board met on 22nd January to consider the matter and agreed not to refer the decision back to Cabinet.

3.10 Scrutiny Self-Assessment

3.11 The work on Scrutiny's self-assessment continues. All Members and key stakeholders were invited to provide feedback via a questionnaire designed by the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Advisory Boards. The questionnaire closed at the end of January and analysis is underway at the time of writing this report. Chairs and Vice Chairs will meet again to consider the findings with a view to taking forward any areas for development identified. The intention is to engage with the Centre for Public Scrutiny to help facilitate discussions. It should also be noted that new national guidance had been expected from Government in December on Scrutiny which will need to be considered as part of this work; however this is still awaited.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Boards continue to explore key issues for the Council in order to provide scrutiny and challenge. The Work Programme will be kept under review so that key issues can be considered in a timely manner to support the Council deliver its priorities.

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01.02.19

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Scrutiny Work Programme

REPORT AUTHOR

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