

**People Select Committee  
Chair's Update – January 2018**

<b>Scrutiny Review – Sickness Absence</b>	
<b>Achieved since last meeting</b>	A draft report was considered and agreed at the Committee meeting in November 2017. The final report was presented to Cabinet in December 2017 where all the recommendations were endorsed.
<b>Problems or concerns</b>	None.
<b>Planned next month</b>	The Action Plan in relation to the agreed recommendations will be presented to Committee at the next meeting in January 2018.
<b>On track – yes / no</b>	Yes.

<b>Scrutiny Review – Mental Health and Wellbeing including Suicide and Self-Harm</b>	
<b>Achieved since last meeting</b>	<p>This review was postponed in February 2017 and was scheduled to resume later in 2017-2018.</p> <p>The previously agreed scope and plan for this review was revisited to ensure it remained appropriate, and was presented to Committee in November 2017. Following lengthy discussion, Members agreed the scope and plan - the review will focus on the 14-25 age range, and will seek to understand how well mental health is being promoted and ill-health prevented, with a particular attention on preventing and mitigating the key risk factors for suicide and self-harm which may manifest themselves in this age group and in later life.</p> <p>An initial overview of mental health and wellbeing was also provided – this included a national and local context, national and local policy drivers, children and adults mental health needs assessments, and national and local suicide statistics/audit information.</p>
<b>Problems or concerns</b>	None.
<b>Planned next month</b>	The next meeting will look at this issue from more of a preventative angle, with Committee due to receive evidence from Public Health, the Teeswide Suicide Prevention Taskforce and Secondary School representatives.
<b>On track – yes / no</b>	Yes.

<b>Scrutiny Review – Community Participation Budget (Reporting-In Review)</b>	
<b>Achieved since last meeting</b>	This is an officer-led reporting-in review, led by the Director of Economic Growth and Development, that was added to the Work

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	<p>Programme and was scheduled to report to Committee in December 2017.</p> <p>Officers presented their report to Committee in December 2017 on the operation of CPBs and future options. Members discussed this report, and raised concerns around the current level of unspent budgets, as well as the problems caused by 'split' Wards (where more than one political group was represented within a single Ward). Extending the scope of the schemes that this money could be used for was also raised, though it was noted the earliest the CPB can be reviewed is at the end of its current financial cycle (2018/19) as some Members will have already made commitments to schemes and projects using next year's allocation.</p>
<b>Problems or concerns</b>	None.
<b>Planned next month</b>	A paper detailing the People Select Committee's response to this Officer-led 'reporting-in' review will be included as an appendix to the Officer report that is presented to Cabinet (possibly in January 2018).
<b>On track – yes / no</b>	Yes.

**Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance**

<b>Key Issues / Problems or concerns</b>	None.
<b>Requests for more information</b>	-

**Monitoring**

<b>Key Issues / Problems or concerns</b>	<p><u>Disadvantage in Early Years (Initial)</u>: An initial progress update was given at the last Committee meeting in December 2017 – all actions in relation to the agreed recommendations remain on-track with some elements completed.</p> <p><u>Child Poverty</u>: A further progress update was given at the last Committee meeting in December 2017 – one of the two remaining actions has been completed, but the other has slipped. Committee urged the identification of a contact (previously Dr Paul Williams) to provide an update for this latter recommendation as soon as possible.</p> <p><u>Wellbeing</u>: A further progress update was given at the last Committee meeting in December 2017 – two of the three actions remain outstanding (one on-track, one slipped).</p>
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	<p><u>FASD</u>: A further progress update was given at the last Committee meeting in December 2017 – the outstanding actions have slipped due to changes in the workforce/personnel involved. Liaison with the Education Improvement Service and Adults Partnership will attempt to address these issues.</p> <p><u>Welfare Reform Monitoring</u> – Members considered the latest Welfare Reform Monitoring at the December 2017 Committee meeting. A series of changes following November's budget were noted, particularly around Universal Credit (Officer will circulate a Universal Credit briefing update to Members with the December minutes). Members praised the work of the Welfare Support Service, and the introduction of the discretionary Council Tax discount for Care Leavers was also noted. To clarify issues around Universal Credit roll-out, it was suggested that an expert from DWP is invited to the next Member's seminar.</p>
<b>Requests for more information</b>	-

**Next Meeting**

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 (1.30pm)