

Executive Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Tuesday 17 January 2023.

Present: Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley (Chair), Cllr Maurice Perry (Vice-Chair), Cllr Chris Barlow, Cllr Pauline Beall, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Evaline Cunningham, Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr Niall Innes, Cllr Tony Riordan, Cllr Marilyn Surtees, Cllr Laura Tunney, Cllr Hilary Vickers (sub for Cllr Jacky Bright), Cllr Barry Woodhouse

Officers: Judy Trainer, Gary Woods, Rebecca Saunders-Thompson, Rachel Harrison (CS)

Also in attendance: None

Apologies: Cllr Jacky Bright, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Ted Strike

1 Evacuation Procedure

The Committee noted the evacuation and housekeeping procedure.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 November 2022

AGREED the minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4 Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee – Scrutiny Review of Care at Home – Executive Summary for Information

The Committee considered the Executive Summary from the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee's Review of Care at Home due to be considered by Cabinet later in January 2023.

Members commented that this had been an important and valuable piece of work which highlighted that:

- Staff needed to feel valued
- Strong communication with residents was vital
- There were recruitment and retention issues which needed to be addressed
- It was important to establish trust between the service provider and those accessing services
- The benefits of sharing of good practice
- Listening to service users was essential

Members discussed the need to ensure a consistent level of service regardless of how it was accessed or funded (via the Council or paid-for privately).

AGREED that the report be noted.

5 Children and Young People Select Committee - Scrutiny of Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Relationships

The Committee considered the Executive Summary from the Children and Young People Select Committee's Review of Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Relationship which was due to be presented to Cabinet in February.

The draft final report had been considered by the Select Committee on 11 January 2023 and had been approved for submission to Cabinet subject to recommendation 9 being amended as follows:

That an options appraisal is undertaken on how Children's Services can achieve the best outcomes for young people through improved practice and additional capacity and focus, including through the use of voices of experience. This will include options for structure and effective multi-agency working.

Members acknowledged the importance of recommendation 5 which called for a training and support programme for Children's Services staff and commented that training should be comprehensive and targeted at all levels.

AGREED that the report be noted.

6 Select Committee Chairs' Updates

Members were provided with updates from the Chairs of each Select Committee. Updates and discussion included:

Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee –

Members emphasised their disappointment that the local CQC inspectors would no longer be providing an overview of local services as had been previous practice and were surprised that similar updates were not routinely being provided to other overview and scrutiny committees in the region.

Members continued to have significant concerns around the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) and highlighted the important role that the Governors of TEWV needed to perform in scrutinising and challenging the Trust.

It was highlighted that North Tees and Hartlepool NHS FT patients were still having to attend pre and post-natal visits whereas County Durham and Darlington NHS FT had resumed home visits by midwives. Home visits had been suspended during the pandemic but Members were concerned that these should resume for safeguarding reasons. The Select Committee Chair gave an undertaking to raise this at a forthcoming meeting with the North Tees and Hartlepool NHS FT.

Children and Young People Select Committee –

Members noted the update from the Children and Young People Select Committee Chair.

Crime and Disorder Select Committee –

Members noted the update from the Crime and Disorder Select Committee Chair.

People Select Committee –

Members noted the update from the People Select Committee Chair.

Place Select Committee –

The Place Select Committee Chair advised that he had attended an initial meeting of the joint working group examining Crustacean Deaths. The first meeting had discussed the scope of the work and a more detailed update would be provided to the March meeting.

AGREED that the updates be noted.

7 Forward Plan of Key Decisions

AGREED that the Forward Plan was noted.

8 Chair's Update and Executive Scrutiny Work Programme

The Chair drew attention to the letter and proforma which had been sent to all Members inviting topic suggestions for in depth scrutiny review in 2023/24.

A draft programme would be presented to Executive Scrutiny Committee for consideration on 28 March which would be reviewed by the Committee after the local elections.

AGREED that the work programme be noted.