

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2015/16

**HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

AGENDA ITEM 7

14TH OCTOBER 2015

**PROPOSED SCRUTINY WORK
PROGRAMME**

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide Members with a draft 2015/16 work programme for the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee:

- 2.1 Agree a work programme (a draft work programme being set out at Appendix 1) and the approach for scrutinising each agreed topic; and
- 2.2 Agree that the work programme be amended as necessary during the year to reflect the demands of the work.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 There is a requirement to devise and publish a Work Programme for each of the Council's Scrutiny Committees as set out in Part 4 of the Constitution, (Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules). Each Committee is responsible for setting and agreeing its own Work Programme; however, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has a role in co-ordinating the work of the four thematic Scrutiny Committees and ensuring that the work of each of these committees is effective.
- 3.2 The terms of reference for the Committee is to undertake the overview and scrutiny role in connection with scrutinising services which support the Health and Well-being of our communities. The Committee considers adult social services as well as all other factors which contribute to the Health and Well-Being of the County Borough, such as Leisure Services and Public Health and Protection Services.

- 3.3 As part of the new scrutiny arrangements, a more rationalised approach has been taken to the development of this year's work programme and during the July and September meetings of the Committee, Members have considered the benefits of scrutinising a range of topics which come within the scope of this committee (please see matrix at Appendix 1).

4. PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME

- 4.1 In taking on board Members' views as expressed at the last two meetings of the Committee and following further discussions with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee, a number of areas have been identified for scrutiny.
- 4.2 In particular, Members identified 3 key areas which they considered warranted scrutiny involvement given that the Council was in the bottom quartile for performance in 2014/15, namely:
- Supporting people in their own home – reducing the number of people aged 65+ that are placed in residential care homes
 - Delayed Transfers of Care
 - Support for Carers – Carers' assessments.
- 4.3 In discussion with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, it was felt that these three issues were very much interlinked i.e. better support for service users and their carers should enable vulnerable people to stay in their own home for longer and also lead to a reduction in those hospital admissions which are not attributable to an acute medical emergency. This should also lessen the opportunity for delayed discharge. The Supporting People agenda is in itself a significant undertaking, the ability of people to remain in their own homes depends not only on the support provided by the Council and carers but is also dependent on primary health care support i.e. the support of GPs, Community Nursing, Community Pharmacists and the 3rd Sector. With this in mind, it is therefore proposed that the bulk of the Committee time this year is focussed on the Supporting People agenda and support for Carers. This also ties in with one of the fundamental principles of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 which is to increase preventative services within the community to minimise escalation of need. Implementation of the Act will be a significant challenge for the Council's Social Services as a whole but whilst the Act is now in place, the regulations and codes of practice have not yet been published by the Welsh Government. It is therefore proposed that at this stage the Committee is kept up to date with progress rather than undertake a review of this area.
- 4.4 As a new Committee, Members have also expressed a wish to learn more about specific service areas to better equip them to determine their scrutiny work programme going forward. As part of this process Members received a report in relation to the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 at the last meeting. Areas for possible future scrutiny review are set out below but it is acknowledged that in some cases Members will need to have a better understanding of the service areas before any detailed work is carried out. Given the time

constraints of the Committee, it is therefore suggested that a programme of member development runs alongside the work programme which itself will need to run over into 2016/17.

Other suggested areas for future consideration are as follows:

- gaining an understanding of the new Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub
- considering how Leisure Services can contribute to the Health & Wellbeing Agenda
- bereavement services available in Rhondda Cynon Taf
- the regulation and inspection of premises in relation to food hygiene
- Member briefing in relation to the licensing functions of the Council
- Housing update

4.5 Attached at Appendix 1 is a proposed timetable for the delivery of the Work Programme. When appropriate, Members will also need to make a judgement on the preferred method of scrutiny e.g. via full Scrutiny Committee meetings or via 'working groups', that report back to the full Scrutiny Committee.

4.6 Given the size of the task ahead of the Committee it should be noted that there will need to be an element of flexibility with regard to the work programme and it will no doubt need to be re-visited in the coming months as the Committee gains a better understanding of the issues.

4.7 In addition to the above considerations, during the year the Committee could also receive requests from the Executive or other committees e.g. Council, Audit Committee, Overview & Scrutiny, to consider a particular issue.

5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 The revised approach has been used to formulate a work programme that aims to demonstrate the rationale for topic selection together with the intended outcome(s) from the Committee's work.

5.2 Members are asked to consider and agree a work programme and the approach through which they wish to scrutinise each agreed topic.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

as amended by

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14TH OCTOBER 2015

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

PROPOSED SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

(Officer to Contact: Ann Edwards, Scrutiny Support Officer – Telephone No. 01443 424102)

APPENDIX 1

HEALTH AND WELL BEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16

Tues 7 th July 15 5 pm	Weds 2 nd Sept 15 5 pm	Weds 14 th Oct 15 5 pm	Weds 11 th Nov 15 5 pm	Weds 16 th Dec 15 5 pm	Weds 20 th Jan 16 5 pm	Weds 22 nd March 16 5 pm	Ongoing into 2016/17
<p>Readiness for the SS & Wellbeing Act - - Action Plan</p> <p>Developing a work programme – what does the committee want to achieved during the year</p>	<p>Overview of the Council’s Housing Services – key challenges - impact on health & wellbeing</p> <p>Director of Social Services Report</p> <p>Work programme</p> <p>Report of the Empty Properties Working Group</p>	<p>Social Services Annual Complaints Report</p> <p>Carers Strategy – annual report for information</p> <p>Draft guidance from Older People’s Commissioner</p> <p>Maesyffynnon Care Home</p> <p>Work programme</p>	<p><u>Supporting People</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early intervention & re-ablement service <p>Carers Assessments - update</p>	<p><u>Supporting People</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Health care/3rd sector • User perspective <p>CSSIW report</p>	<p>MASH – overview</p> <p>Social Services & Wellbeing Act – update</p> <p>Supporting people</p>	<p>Carers Assessments – update</p> <p>Supporting People</p> <p>Scrutiny Annual Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit to MASH • Leisure – contribution to Health&Wellbeing • Bereavement services • Public Health inspections • Committee briefing in relation to the Licensing function and Trading Standards • Housing Update