

Birmingham City Council

Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 7 May 2024



Subject: Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme

Report of: Christian Scade, Head of Scrutiny and Committee Services

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1 Purpose.

- 1.1 This report sets out the work programme for the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee during 2023-24. Following the findings and recommendations from the independent Governance Review of the Council, and specifically recommendation 5, the Committee reframed its work programme to be aligned to the Council's improvement and recovery priorities.
- 1.2 Due to late approval from the Commissioners the report was unable to be published with the agenda on Friday 26 April 2024. However, the chair has confirmed that the report can be considered at the meeting and so this report has therefore been published as an item of Urgent Business.

2 Recommendations.

- 2.1 That the Committee
- 2.2 Notes the report.
- 2.3 Identifies potential issues for consideration at the first meeting of the municipal year in June 2024 subject to any decisions made by Co-ordinating OSC regarding the work programme.

3 Background.

- 3.1 The Committee's Terms of Reference is to fulfil its functions as they relate to any policies, services and activities concerning the development of Health and Wellbeing Board and relationship with NHS and private providers; social care services and safeguarding for adults; public health services; healthy living, and discharge of the

relevant overview and scrutiny role set out in the National Health Service Act (2006) as amended by the Health and Social Care Act (2012) including:

- The appointment of Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees with neighbouring authorities

3.2 The Council's constitution and Committee terms of reference are being updated to reflect the 2024 Health Scrutiny Regulations that removed the Health Scrutiny power of referral to the Secretary of State. This has been replaced by the power for the Secretary of State to intervene in the reconfiguration of NHS services where there is a substantial variation or development in service.

3.3 The Committee is chaired by Councillor Mick Brown, and its membership comprises of Councillors Shabina Bano, Kath Hartley, Amar Khan, Gareth Moore, Julien Pritchard, Kath Scott and Paul Tilsey.

3.4 The [statutory guidance for local government overview and scrutiny](#) sets out the role it can play in holding an authority's decision makers to account. This makes it fundamentally important to the successful functioning of local democracy.

3.5 Effective Overview and Scrutiny should:

- Provide constructive 'critical friend' challenge.
- Amplify the voices and concerns of the public.
- Be led by independent people who take responsibility for their role.
- Drive improvements in public services.

3.6 The role and functions of Overview and Scrutiny Committees are outlined in [The City Council's Constitution | Birmingham City Council](#) They will:

- Make reports and/or recommendations to the full Council, the Executive and/or other organisations in connection with the discharge of the functions specified in their terms of reference.
- Consider any matter covered in their terms of reference that may affect or be likely to have an effect on the citizens of Birmingham; relevant to the Council's strategic objectives; relevant to major issues faced by officers in managing a function of the Council; and likely to make contribution to moving the Council forward and achieving key performance targets.

3.7 Effective scrutiny needs to add value. A well planned and timely work programme enables Overview and Scrutiny Committees to be involved at the right time and in the right way, and ensure their involvement is meaningful and can influence the outcome.

3.8 Members often have a number of topics suggested to them and are therefore required to **prioritise** matters for consideration. The Scrutiny Framework sets out the following factors to be considered:

- *Public interest*: concerns of local people should influence the issues chosen.

- *Ability to change*: priority should be given to issues that the Committee can realistically influence.
- *Performance*: priority should be given to areas in which the Council and Partners are not performing well.
- *Extent*: priority should be given to issues that are relevant to all or a large part of the city.
- *Replication*: work programme must take account of what else is happening to avoid duplication.

3.9 Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee identified a ‘menu’ of issues (including policy development, policy review, issues of accountability and statutory functions). Each Committee has then regularly reviewed their ‘menu’ and decided which issues needed to be examined further, and how that work would be undertaken. Committees have been advised to consider where they can best add value aligning to the Council’s priorities and improvement journey, and how it can prioritise topics for consideration based on the Scrutiny Framework referred to in paragraph 3.5 above.

3.10 There are a range of ways to undertake scrutiny. In line with statutory guidance from 2019, the approach for 2023-24 has enabled a more flexible scrutiny and outlined a shift from monthly formal meetings to a combination of approaches. The Committee has chosen the most effective scrutiny method to achieve the desired aims and objectives for each topic.

4 Outcomes from 2023/24

4.1 During June 2023 – January 2024, the Committee considered the following topics:

- The CQC pilot inspection for adult social care to provide assurance regarding the preparation for the inspection and how the outcome of the pilot inspection would inform the Committee’s work programme.
- Integrated Care System Governance including how the principle of subsidiarity will be implemented in practice, the governance arrangements and how this links with Primary Care Networks and Local Authority locality working.
- The Task and Finish Group for the Children and Young People’s Mental Health Inquiry held evidence gathering meetings and agreed the report and recommendations that were agreed at City Council and the Health and Adult Care O&S Committee in January 2024.
- The ICB Primary Care enabling Strategy setting out how primary care will be prioritised in the delivery of health and social care in Birmingham.
- At the September, October and November meetings the Committee scrutinised the delivery of the 23/24 savings and financial recovery plans.

- Monitoring recommendations from the Scrutiny Inquiry on the Legacy of the Commonwealth Games
- Access to Community Dental Services to understand the issues relating to access to dental services in Birmingham and the impact this has on oral health.
- Access and Availability of Urgent Care Treatment Centres (UTC) in the City and consider options for the temporary relocation of Warren Farm UTC.
- ICB Quality Report informing the Committee of the Quality Assurance processes across the ICB systems and enable the Committee to prioritise system focussed quality reports to future meetings.
- Adult Social Care Performance monitoring
- Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report to update the Committee on the adult safeguarding arrangements in the city
- Birmingham and Lewisham African and Caribbean Health Inequalities Review (BLACHIR) to report on impact of implementation activity and actions within the ICS and BCC.

4.2 The Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 15 December 2023 acknowledged the recommendations in the Governance Review of Birmingham City Council agreed by Cabinet on 12 December 2023. Recommendation 5 stated the need to reframe scrutiny work programmes on the Council's improvement and recovery priorities, and that alignment of work programmes should focus on:

- a) Having an active part in the 2024/25 budget development process.
- b) The safe and effective delivery of key services supporting vulnerable people.
- c) Critical performance issues emerging "by exception".
- d) Equality and equity issues arising from the development of the 24/25 Budget, the Emergency Budget (to be identified by exception), and other priority scrutiny activity relating to the Budget.
- e) Culture, behaviour change and organisational development.

4.3 On 20 February 2024, the Health and Adult Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee met informally to consider the developing Improvement and Recovery Plan and the findings and recommendations of the Governance Review. The Committee reconsidered its work programme for January - April and reframed it to ensure it aligns with the issues set out above.

4.4 In light of this, the Committee considered the following topics in April and May:

- Update on the temporary relocation of Warren Farm UTC
 - ICB Quality Update
 - Mentally Health City
- 4.5 In April a Task and Finish Group meeting was held in April to consider the savings delivery plans within the remit of the Committee. The comments and recommendations from this meeting will be reported to Co-ordinating OSC on 17 May.
- 4.6 A draft Memorandum of Understanding to clarify the role of Health Scrutiny, specifically in regard to consultations on substantial variations and developments of health services and to enable Health Scrutiny and NHS bodies to reach agreement on what constitutes 'substantial' within the local context has been developed and will be circulated to members for comment.
- 4.7 In May members of the Committee will visit hospital sites at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Heartlands Hospital and Good Hope Hospital of the University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust.
- 4.8 The Birmingham and Sandwell Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee has considered the following issues:
- Updates on the Midland Metropolitan Hospital and a visit to the hospital site during development.
 - Changes to Day Surgery as Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust.
 - Patient Experience at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust.
 - Update on proposed changes to stroke services.
- 4.9 The Birmingham and Solihull Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee has considered the following issues:
- Update reports on the 3 independent reviews of University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.
 - Regular updates on the Integrated Care System (ICS) financial position and recovery of healthcare services following the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - The Care Quality Commission report on maternity services at Heartlands Hospital and actions taken by the Trust.
 - West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) activities such as conveyance to hospitals, lost hours to handover delays, response time by call category, profile of Serious Incidents, actions taken by WMAS, high impact actions to make a difference, outcomes from a WMAS perspective.
 - Winter pressures as part of A&E pressures and ambulance issues.

- Update on ICS workforce planning in health and social care sectors.

5 Looking Ahead

5.1 The Council's latest Forward Plan for April and May (cmis.uk.com) may assist Members in identifying future topics. The following reports are of particular relevance to this Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

ID Number	Title	Proposed Date of Decision
012639/2024	Putting Prevention First: Support and Advice Services for Multiple Disadvantaged Vulnerable Adults	23/04/24
012764/2024	Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023-24	14/05/24

5.2 The issues in the work programme that remain to be considered at the end of the municipal year are:

- Day Opportunities Review considering the effect on service users and their families and carers.
- Immunisations and vaccinations and the implications of covid immunisations rates for health and care staff.
- ICS 10 year Strategy.
- Birmingham City Council Commissioned Services: Birmingham Sexual Health Services, Birmingham Substance Misuse Services, Forward Thinking Birmingham to be considered at key points in the commissioning process.
- Engaging with Third Sector providers of Adult Social Care.
- Population health and inequalities.
- Ongoing monitoring of the delivery of savings within the Committee's terms of reference.
- Monitoring the recommendations of the Children and Young People's Mental Health Inquiry.
- Birmingham Active Sports Strategy and monitoring recommendations of the Commonwealth Games Legacy Inquiry.
- Update on Birmingham and Lewisham African and Caribbean Health Inequalities Review (BLACHIR) community engagement.

6 Any Finance Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report.

7 Any Legal Implications

7.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report.

8 Any Equalities Implications

8.1 The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

8.2 The protected characteristics and groups outlined in the Equality Act are Age; Disability; Gender Reassignment; Marriage and Civil Partnership; Pregnancy and Maternity; Race; Religion and Belief; Sex, and Sexual Orientation.

8.3 The Committee should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them during work programme development, the scoping of work, evidence gathering and making recommendations. This should include considering how policy issues impact on different groups within the community, particularly those that share a relevant protected characteristic; whether the impact on particular groups is fair and proportionate; whether there is equality of access to services and fair representation of all groups within Birmingham; and whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people are being realised.

8.4 The Committee should ensure that equalities comments, and any recommendations, are based on evidence. This should include demographic and service level data and evidence of residents/service-users views gathered through consultation.

9 Appendices

10 Appendix 1: HASC Work Programme 07.05.24.

11 Background Papers

11.1 [Birmingham City Council Constitution](#)

11.2 Birmingham City Council Overview and Scrutiny Framework April 2021

11.3 Cabinet Report 12 December: Governance Review of Birmingham City Council by Centre for Governance and Scrutiny [CMIS > Meetings](#)

