

Birmingham City Council

Report to Birmingham and Solihull Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

16 July 2025



Title:	BIRMIHGAM AND SOLIHULL JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2025/26.
Lead Member:	Not Applicable
Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee:	Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny
Has this report been shared with the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair?	Not Applicable
Report Author:	Fiona Bottrill, Senior Overview and Scrutiny Manager Legal and Governance Email fiona.bottrill@birmingham.gov.uk
Authorised by:	Elaine Newsome, Interim Head of Scrutiny and Committee Services Legal and Governance
Is this a Key Decision?	Not Applicable
Reason(s) why not included on the Forward Plan and confirm who has authorised it to be considered:	Not Applicable
Is this a Late Report?	Yes
Reason(s) why Late and confirm who has authorised it to be considered:	Not Applicable
Is this decision eligible for 'call in?'	Not Applicable
If 'call-in' has been dis-applied, please provide reason(s) and confirm who has authorised:	Not Applicable
Wards:	Not Applicable

Does this report contain exempt or confidential information?

Not Applicable

Has this decision been included on the Notification of Intention to consider Matters in Private?

Not Applicable

Reasons why not included on the Notification and confirm who has authorised it to be considered:

Not Applicable

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to enable the Committee to agree the Committee's terms of reference agree and agree issues to be considered as part of the 2025/26 work programme.

2 COMMISSIONERS' REVIEW

- 2.1 Commissioners have no observations on the report.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

- 3.1 Agrees the terms of reference as set out in Appendix A.
- 3.2 Agrees issues to be considered as part of the Committee's work programme for 2025/26.

4 KEY INFORMATION

Context

- 4.1 The Local Authority Health Scrutiny Guidance was updated in January 2024 [Local authority health scrutiny - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118111/local-authority-health-scrutiny-guidance-2024.pdf) and sets out the role of health scrutiny as part of the accountability of the health system through strengthening the voice of local people and taking an overview of the integration of health, public health and social care.
- 4.2 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 improvement in public services and strategic decision-making
- 4.3 The Committee has agreed a Memorandum of Understanding in September 2024 that sets out the role of the committee in relation to substantial variation or development in NHS services.

Birmingham and Solihull Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

- 4.4 Following the discussion at the committee meeting on 16 July 2025 members are asked to agree the issues to be considered at future meetings. Issues members may want to consider include:
- Maternity Services Improvement

- Update on culture, leadership, patient safety and governance at University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust including NHS Staff Survey.
- Mental Health Services
- ICB Quality Reporting
- Healthwatch report

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

5.1 Where Overview and Scrutiny Committees identify potential risks, these will be preferred to the Council's risk management team to review and may be included in the Council's risk management process.

6 MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

6.1 Not Applicable

7 IMPACT AND IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Best Value

7.1 There are no immediate financial or best value implications from this report. Work to support the Committee in developing its work programme is conducted by an inhouse existing team which has been funded for and there will be no external engagement resulting in incremental costs to the council.

Legal

7.2 Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 states that the Council must have one or more Overview and Scrutiny Committees which have the power to take the actions listed in that section. The Birmingham City Council Constitution sets out how the role and function of scrutiny prescribed by the Act is applied locally.

Equalities

7.3 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.

7.4 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.

- 7.5 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; Whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people are being realised.
- 7.6 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.

Procurement

- 7.7 There are no implications resulting from the recommendations in this report.

People Services

- 7.8 There are no staffing implications resulting from the recommendations in this report.

Climate Change, Nature and Net Zero

- 7.9 Overview and Scrutiny Committee's will consider the climate change, nature and Net Zero issues relevant to the work programme items.

Corporate Parenting

- 7.10 Overview and Scrutiny Committee's will consider the corporate parenting responsibilities and opportunities relevant to the work programme.

Other

- 7.11 There are no other implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

8 APPENDICES

- 8.1 Appendix A Birmingham and Solihull Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference

9 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 None