

Birmingham City Council and Sandwell MBC Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

12 March 2024



Subject: Joint Birmingham and Sandwell Health 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 proposed work programme for the Joint Birmingham and Sandwell Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) for 2023-24. Appendix 1 outlines the topics identified, aims and objectives and the preferred method of scrutiny to achieve these objectives.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee:
- Notes the information set out in Appendix 1 and identifies if any further topics need to be added to the menu of topics for the Committee to explore at future meetings.
 - Agrees, subject to further input from the Joint Chairs, the issues that the Committee will consider at the next meeting and the proposed aims and objectives and the preferred method of scrutiny.
 - Notes, subject to further input from the Joint Chairs outside of the meeting, its proposed work programme will be submitted to Co-ordinating O&S to enable work to be planned and co-ordinated throughout the year.

3 Background

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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 improvements in public services.
- 3.3 The role and functions of the Birmingham and Sandwell Overview and Scrutiny Committee is set out in the terms of reference agreed at the meeting on 29 November 2022 [Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](https://cmis.uk.com)
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 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.

Looking Ahead

- 3.6 Overview and Scrutiny Committees will identify a ‘menu’ of issues (including policy development, policy review, issues of accountability and statutory functions) at the start of the year. Each Committee should then regularly review their ‘menu’ and decide which issues need to be examined further, and how that work would be undertaken. Scrutiny activities should be thorough and undertaken in a timely manner.

Scrutiny Methods

- 3.7 There are a range of ways to undertake scrutiny. The approach for 2023-24 enables flexible scrutiny and outlines a shift from monthly formal meetings to a combination of approaches. The Committee will choose the most effective scrutiny method to achieve the desired aims and objectives for each topic.
- 3.8 Based on Statutory Guidance published in 2019, different scrutiny methods include (but are not limited to):

- A single item, or items, on a committee agenda – this method fits more closely with the “overview” aspect of the Scrutiny function and provides limited opportunity for effective scrutiny. It is most appropriate for specific issues where the committee wants to maintain a watching brief.
- A single item meeting, either as the committee or a more limited number of Members. It has the capacity to enhance the previous option by taking evidence from a number of witnesses.
- A task and finish day - provided that these are properly focused, they ensure Councillors can swiftly reach conclusions and make recommendations and are effective even for complex topics.
- A task and finish review – this is an enhancement of the previous option being held over four or six meetings spread over a limited number of months.

Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

3.9 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
- The exercise of the power to make referrals of contested service reconfigurations to the Secretary of State as previously delegated to the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee by the Council.

3.10 The Joint HOSC is chaired by Cllr Mick Brown (Birmingham) and Cllr Elaine Giles (Sandwell), and its membership comprises:

Birmingham:

Councillors Mick Brown (BCC Chair - Lab), Kath Hartley (Lab), Vacancy (Labour), Gareth Moore (Con) and Mumtaz Hussain (LibDem).

Sandwell:

Councillors Elaine Giles (Sandwell Chair – Lab), Amrita Dunn (Con), Thomas Johnston (Lab), Chipiliro Kalebe-Nyamongo (Lab), Kay Millar (Lab).

4 Work Programme 2023-24

4.1 Appendix 1 sets out the work previous undertaken by the Joint HOSC and also the topics the Committee has identified for future consideration.

4.2 The Committee may decide to add further items to the work programme during the course of the year. When considering this, the Committee is advised to consider

where it can best add value through scrutiny, and how it can prioritise topics for consideration based on the Scrutiny Framework referred to in 3.5.

5 Any Finance Implications

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

6 Any Legal Implications

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

7 Any Equalities Implications

7.1 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.

7.2 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.

7.3 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 Sandwell; and whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people are being realised.

7.4 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.

8 Appendices

8.1 Appendix 1: Birmingham and Sandwell Joint HOSC Work Programme February 24

Birmingham and Sandwell Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme – 23/24.

| Month | Item/Topic | Aims and Objectives | Scrutiny Method | Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer | Other Witnesses | Additional Information and Outcome* |
|----------------|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| September 2023 | Midland Metropolitan Hospital update Health Scrutiny Function | To receive an update on the development of the Midland Metropolitan University Hospital (MMUH) | Committee meeting single item: 27th Sept. Venue: Council House, Sandwell Council, Oldbury. | | Jayne Ilic Director of Communication and Engagement, MMUH Programme. | Invitation from NHS Sandwell & West Birmingham for a potential visit. Visit now scheduled for 1 st March 2024. |
| September 2023 | Update on Changes to Day Surgery at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust. Health Scrutiny Function | To provide an update to the Committee on the ongoing work to implement the changes from the formal conversation to Changes to Day Surgery held between March 2022 and April 2022. | Committee meeting single item: 27th Sept. Venue: Council House, Sandwell Council, Oldbury. | Jayne Salter-Scott, Head of Public and Community Engagement, Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust. | | Members to be kept updated at future meetings |
| September 2023 | Patient Experience at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust. Health Scrutiny Function | To update the Committee about Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust's (SWB) approach to patient experience | Committee meeting single item: 27th Sept. Venue: Council House, Sandwell Council, Oldbury. | Jamie Emery, Patient Insight, and Involvement | | Members to be kept updated at future meetings |
| October 2023 | An informal briefing for JHOSC Chairs with MMUH Delivery Director and our Group Director of Operations Primary Care, Communities | To talk through our rationale and approach to the decoupling of Stroke services to deliver high quality, safe rehabilitation outside the acute hospital | MS TEAMS JHOSC Chairs briefing. 31st October 2023 1.30pm | Jayne Salter-Scott, Head of Communities and Engagement, Sandwell and West | | Meeting contributed to the Stroke Conversation. The first conversation in public last week on Thursday 23 rd November. It was well received. |

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| | Health Scrutiny Function | environment and seek their opinion and advise on our direction of travel. | | Birmingham NHS Trust. | | |
| March 2024 | Visit to Midlands Metropolitan Hospital Health Scrutiny Function | To see the development of the hospital to inform future work at Joint HOSC meetings | On location 1 March 2024 | Jayne Salter-Scott, Head of Public and Community Engagement, Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust. | | |
| March 2024 | Midlands Metropolitan Hospital – update on hospital development and Models of care across the Trust Health Scrutiny Function | To looks at models of care across the Trust in meeting patients’ needs | Committee meeting single item: 12th March Venue: Council House, Victoria Sq. Birmingham. Deadline for report: Tues. 27th Feb | Jayne Salter-Scott, Head of Public and Community Engagement, Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust. | | To provide progress update as agreed from last JHOSC meeting in Sept 2023. |
| March 2024 | Patient Experience at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust – update on reporting programme Health Scrutiny Function | Progress report on patients’ experience and reporting system/programme | Committee meeting single item: 12th March Venue: Council House, Victoria Sq. Birmingham. | Jamie Emery, Patient Insight & Involvement Lead, Sandwell & West Birmingham NHS | | From the last meeting in Sept. 23 |

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| | | | Deadline for report: Tues. 27th Feb | | | |
| March 2024 | Update on proposed changes to Stroke services Health Scrutiny Function | To update following member briefing on service on 31 st October 2023 | Committee meeting single item: 12th March Venue: Council House, Victoria Sq. Birmingham. Deadline for report: Tues. 27th Feb | Jayne Salter-Scott, Head of Public & Community Engagement, NHS Sandwell & West Birmingham NHS | | |

*Outcome: This will be populated once the item/topic has been completed. It will identify the added value and impact.

Scrutiny Method Options:

Committee meeting - single item

Committee meeting - single theme

Task and Finish Group (outline number of meetings)

On location

Other - (describe)