



REPORT OF: Democratic Services

REPORT TO: Health and Adults Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

ON: 1st December 2014.

RE: Work programme update

1. Purpose of the Report

For Members of the Health and Adults Overview and Scrutiny Committee to note the progress to date of the work programme 2014-15 and to review the priorities for the remainder of the year, acknowledging that only two Standing Committees remain in the Municipal year: Namely 21st January and 9th March.

2. Background

The last meeting of the Committee took place on 20th October 2014. Members considered two work programme reports, one discussing the implantation of a fifth licencing objective and separately a report on Public Health. Members also held a review with the Director from Public Health on a publication that the Committee had received; Healthy people, health places; Obesity and the environment: Regulating the growth of fast food outlets.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 To note the progress on the work programme and
- 3.2 Agree a concluding work programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year that is able to report recommendations to the last meeting of the Committee on 9th March 2015.

4. Remaining work programme 2014- 2015.

As outlined in the purpose of the report; not including the December meeting, the Committee has only two further Standing meetings in the municipal calendar; namely 21st January and 9th March 2015: Therefore any new work agreed and undertaken at this meeting must be realistic in terms of ability to deliver recommendations at its final meeting on 9th March 2015.

The caveat being that this does not include any work the Committee choose to undertake outside of the formal meetings by way of task and finish groups or informal collaborative reviews, however the Committee should be mindful that the outcomes of any additional work will require reporting back by the same date; namely 9th March 2015.

Members will be aware that the Executive Member for Health and Adults and the Director of Public health presented priorities and risks to the first meeting in the municipal year, with Members being asked to choose which areas they as a Committee felt they wished to scrutinise.

“The effective delivery of the nationally mandated Public health programmes” was a Member learning and awareness event successfully concluded on 10th September.

“Independence through preventative support” and revisit of *Loneliness and Social Isolation* was partially dealt with in a meeting with the Director of Adult Social Care and the Chief Executive of AgeUk on 15th October. However, it should be noted that one of the outcomes was an agreement to undertake some follow up work. This still remains to be done with further work being undertaken in the New Year (2015).

Obesity as a review formed the main focus of the October meeting of the Committee, however it is envisaged more work will be done between the next two meetings of the Committee with recommendations being presented to the 9th March.

“Reducing Health Inequalities in vulnerable communities” was the headline from which the Committee chose to look specifically at *Food banks food poverty and the effects of welfare reform*: This review, starts, and forms the main part of the agenda for this December meeting with an overview from the Director of Public Health on *Food poverty, food relief and food sustainability*. With the approval of the Committee, it is envisaged that in January representations will be sought from relief agencies and those seek to promote less food waste.

This summarises the work of the Committee so far, however, as is often the case, other issues may arise throughout the year which may warrant the attention of the Committee: This has already been demonstrated recently by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee. To this end the prerogative of reserving the right to add “hot topics” to, or review and revise the work programme of, still remains within the gift of the Committee, so that Scrutiny remains relevant, current and addresses issues where it can make a clear and improved difference.

With the winter of 2015 being purported to be “the worst winter in 100 years”, it is suggested that Members may wish to consider an apposite review of Blackburn with Darwen`s partnership approach to winter preparedness and resilience (formally referred to as the Winter Plan).

It is already known that each of the Authority`s partner organisations above will have its own winter resilience plan, and senior responsible officers assigned accordingly: However, to date there has not been a whole system review of winter resilience.

Therefore it is suggested that an assurance exercise be undertaken with key stakeholders testing the whole system model, challenging performance and testing assumptions which could drive better value across a range of disciplines and sectors, producing a more robust whole sector approach to delivering winter resilience and business continuity

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