

# scrutiny

focus on performance

**REPORT OF:** Democratic Services

**REPORT TO:** Health and Adults Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**ON:** 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

**RE:** Committee Work programme 2015-16

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## **1. Purpose of the Report**

For Members of the Health and Adults Overview and Scrutiny Committee to note the progress to date of their work programme for the municipal year 2015-16.

## **2. Background**

At the first meeting of the municipal year, the Executive Member for Health and Adult Social Care provided the Committee with an overview of the key priorities and risks for his portfolio for the year.

A detailed list of deliberations was circulated to the Committee and using this information as a guide, the Committee identified target areas that they felt were significant and required further scrutiny.

The following headlines were agreed to be scoped for their work programme for 2015-16;

- Carers support
- Effectiveness in homecare
- Maximising independence
- Your Call and community activity
- Integration of Care services with National Health services
- Impact and outcomes of BwD public health over the last two years

## **3. Work programme 2015/16**

The following topics have been completed throughout the course of the municipal year;

## July – September 2015 – Integration of Care services with National Health services

At its meeting of the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2015, senior officers from the Lancashire Care Foundation Trust (LCFT) and the East Lancashire Hospital Trust (ELHT) provided the Committee with an outline of their challenges and priorities.

Detailed discussions took place around how partnership working through the integration of health services could alleviate risk to the Local Authority's and its Partners key priorities. Members were informed that collaborative working was key to the successful delivery of health services moving forwards.

One of the key risks highlighted to Members was mental health services, particularly in respect of in-year and future budget efficiencies. Members felt that it would be beneficial to receive an in-depth briefing on Mental Health provision in the Borough.

On 27<sup>th</sup> August, a Task Group was given a briefing on Mental Health by Public Health and Blackburn with Darwen Clinical Commissioning Group. The briefing provided a broad overview of mental health, mental illness, mental wellbeing and the spectrum each of us may experience both prior to as post receipt of intervention services.

The key outcomes of this task group were;

- For members of the task group to receive Mental Health First Aid training
- For the task group to consider some of the detail of the current work linked to the Crisis Care Concordat.
- For a specific briefing to be arranged for the task group on the work of the Street Triage Service in the next municipal as it the service is in its infancy.

It was agreed that mental health services be picked up by the Committee as a hot topic and that Members received a further briefing on provision later in the year.

At its meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015, the Committee received a brief overview of how the LCFT was working with the Police to implement a new approach to mentally ill offenders, and those with learning difficulties with an aim to prevent vulnerable people being caught in the criminal justice system.

The Committee completed its review on the Integration of Care services with National Health services, and was satisfied that the Council was working hard to build successful relationships with partner organisations to ensure the best outcomes for the residents of the Borough.

## 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015 - Response to the 2014/15 recommendations and an update of key risks 2015/16

At its meeting of the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015, the Executive Member for Health and Adult Social Care provided the Committee with a response to the recommendations it made in the municipal year 2014/15. Members noted the updates and were happy with the provisions in place to address them by the Executive Members so far.

The Committee had also requested an update on the Risks which were outlined by the Executive Member at the beginning of the municipal year 2015/16 be brought to its December meeting.

The Executive Members for Health and Adult Social Care advised the Committee that their risks were still the same as anticipated at the start of the municipal year but felt that there was now a higher risk than previously advised due to current budget pressures.

Members noted the pressures outlined by the Executive Member in their bid to mitigate the risks within their Portfolio.

### December 2015- March 2016 – Effectiveness in Homecare

Healthwatch Blackburn with Darwen was invited to the 7<sup>th</sup> December meeting of the Committee to provide an update on their latest Homecare service review.

It was reported that Healthwatch Blackburn with Darwen had issued series of documents which had been directly posted to a random sample of 500 local residents receiving domiciliary care services to ascertain their viewpoint on the level of care they were receiving.

Detailed discussions took place regarding the results of this consultation. Members noted that the key areas of concern were;

- Residents need to be informed of changes before they take place.
- Residents would like to keep the same staff.
- Residents should know who was coming to support them.
- During half hour visits, being 10 minutes late did not give enough time for care.
- If the carer was late, they should have to make the time up.

Members noted that the full Healthwatch report on Homecare Services would be published in February and felt it would be beneficial to gain a deeper understanding of the report's findings. Members agreed to invite the Chief Executive of Healthwatch back to the final meeting of the Committee on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

## January 2016 – Public Health and Mental Health

At its meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016, the Director of Public Health provided the Committee with a policy briefing on food, child poverty and health. In noting the potential magnitude of need for food aid in the Borough, Members agreed to invite a representative of the Trussell Trust Foodbank, Blackburn to the final meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016 to provide an overview of their service.

The Committee also received an update on the revised alcohol consumption guidance and which highlighted an increased correlation between potential cancer risk and high levels of drinking.

At the January meeting, the Committee also received a presentation on the role and work of the Mental Health Champion Cllr Brian Taylor.

Members discussed in depth the services available for people with mental health conditions and raised a number of questions on what was next for mental health provision in the Borough.

The Committee was informed that whilst there was a range of good work ongoing from several agencies, there was still much to be done.

It was agreed that an update on the work of the Mental Health Champion be brought to a meeting of the Committee in the next municipal year.

## March 2016

To conclude its work programme on Homecare services and Food Poverty, the Committee agreed to invite representatives from Healthwatch Blackburn with Darwen and The Trussell Trust Foodbank Blackburn to its meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016 to provide Members with an update on their respective services.

## Remaining Topics

Given the difficult circumstances, challenging environment the Council is faced with, Members agreed to undertake a number of hot topics that arose throughout the course of the municipal year. This meant unfortunately a number of topics agreed at the beginning of the year could not be undertaken.

### **4. Risk**

The Committee can demonstrate that in light of the ongoing challenges and cuts the Council faces, Members have considered and revisited the risks identified by the Executive Member at the beginning of the municipal year; to see if they remain the same, had become more or less of a concern, or in an ongoing era of austerity, new risks to portfolios had arisen during the course

of the year. This has provided Members with assurance and oversight of the increasing difficulties the Council faces in continuing to deliver services.

## **5. Conclusion**

A list of recommendations will be presented at the final meeting of the Committee for Members consideration and deliberation. These recommendations will form an outline for the Annual review of Scrutiny on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2016. Members may also wish to consider additional recommendations based on the information and evidence received at the final meeting.

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