

Draft Terms of reference for the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Membership

The membership shall be in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Part4, Section 5 of the Constitution). Currently, the Committee consists of six elected members appointed by the Council. [The Committee may appoint up to [] non-voting advisory members].

Meetings

Meetings of the Committee shall be held and conducted in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Part4, Section 5 of the Constitution).

Purpose of the Committee

1. To be responsible for the overview and scrutiny of the Executive portfolio areas:
 - Adult Services & Prevention
 - Public Health & Wellbeing(see Part 3, Section 15 of the Constitution)
2. To scrutinise and review of matters in connection with the planning, provision, operation and decisions taken by the Council and relevant partner organisations in relation to health, well-being and social care in Blackburn with Darwen (BwD).
3. Undertake all the statutory functions of a scrutiny committee in accordance with Sections 244-246 (and regulations made under those sections) of the National Health Service Act 2006, as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012, and subsequent legislation. In doing so the Committee shall have due regard to the Government:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/advice-to-local-authorities-on-scrutinising-health-services>
4. To exercise powers to refer a proposed substantial development or variation in service delivery to the Secretary of State. If the Committee wish to exercise this power, then this must also be agreed by the Chair of the Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee who will be an ex-officio member of the Health Committee and will hold the power of veto in respect of any proposed referral of a substantial variation to the Secretary of State.
5. Operation of the Committee and the Relationship with the Portfolio Holders.

The Committee should actively gather information on topics they choose to scrutinise as part of their work programme through working with officers, members and other sources who can assist/advise.

The Portfolio holder will be requested to address the Committee on service delivery, policy decisions and direction as appropriate with support from Chief Officers where necessary.

General Role & Functions

5. In relation to the above:
 - a) to make reports and/or recommendations to the full Council, Executive of the Council, any joint committee or any relevant partner authority as appropriate
 - b) to consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants

7. To put in place and maintain a system to ensure that referrals from the Committee to the Executive, either by way of report or for reconsideration, are managed effectively and efficiently, and in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Part4, Section 5 of the Constitution).
8. To report annually to full Council on its work, set out plans for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate.
9. Identify areas based on the priorities of the Executive portfolio(s) requiring in-depth review and set the terms of reference, scope and time frame for the review by the Committee.
10. Maintain a strategic overview of progress towards the achievement of the ambitions and priorities within the Council's Priorities as agreed at the Policy Council in relation to the areas set out above.
11. Identify the Committee's strategic priorities and determine the Overview and Scrutiny work programme to facilitate constructive evidence based critical-friend challenge to policy makers and service providers within the resources available.
4. Assist and advise the Council in the continued development of the Overview and Scrutiny function within BwD.
5. Receive, consider and action as appropriate requests: a) from the Executive in relation to particular issues; and b) on any matters properly referred to the Committee.
6. In relation to the terms of reference of the Committee it may:
 - a) assist the Council and the Executive in the development of its budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues;
 - b) review and scrutinise the decisions made by and performance of the Executive and/or Committees and Council officers both in relation to individual decisions and over time;
 - c) review and scrutinise the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas;
 - d) review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the overview and scrutiny committee about their activities and performance;
 - e) question and gather evidence from any other person with their consent.
 - h) question members of the Executive and/or committees, senior officers of the Council and representatives of relevant partner authorities on relevant issues and proposals affecting the area and about decisions and performance;
 - i) liaise with other external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working; and
 - j) undertake any other activity that assists the Committee in carrying out its functions.