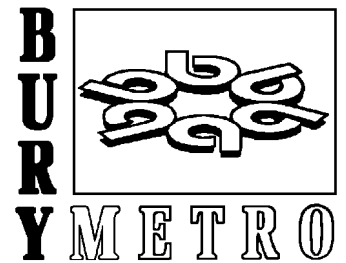


METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF BURY



**OVERVIEW AND  
SCRUTINY**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2003/2004**

# FOREWORD

Bury MBC's Scrutiny Panels and Commissions have just completed their fifth year of scrutinising and reviewing the work and services of the Authority. The scrutiny function has experienced significant developments this year in taking on major responsibility in reviewing the health service.

The work of the Panels/Commissions has ranged from reviewing new initiatives prior to consideration by the Executive, instigating reviews of various issues from individual Work Programmes, monitoring aspects of service provision and intelligence gathering from departments about aspects of their work.

The scrutiny function is now well established although more needs to be accomplished in the policy development area and in developing more in-depth reviews.

During the year, the first steps have been taken to publicise the work of the Panels/Commissions and to encourage greater public involvement, particularly in the health field.

I would like to thank the Chairs, Members, Education Representatives and Co-opted Members of all the Scrutiny Panels and Commissions and also the responsible Directors and staff involved, for their hard work over the past twelve months and look forward to the challenges ahead.

**Councillor John Smith**  
**Chair of Scrutiny Management Committee**  
**May 2004**

# **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT WORK OF SCRUTINY PANELS/COMMISSIONS DURING 2003/2004**

## **1.0 Introduction**

This is the second Annual Report of Overview and Scrutiny and sets out details of the developments to the overview of scrutiny structure and process during 2003/2004 and of the work undertaken by the Scrutiny Panels and Commissions during that year.

## **2.0 Overview and Scrutiny Structure And Process**

### **2.1 The main scrutiny structure comprises:-**

(i) the following Panels and Commissions:-

- Resource Scrutiny Panel
- Performance Management Scrutiny Panel

The role of these two Panels is to be inwardly focused by acting as a check on the Executive decision-making, and overseeing performance management issues.

- Healthier and Safer Communities Scrutiny Commission (with responsibility for scrutiny of the National Health Service)
- Learning Communities Scrutiny Commission
- Economy, Environment and Transport Scrutiny Commission

The role of these three Commissions is to be outwardly focused and to be engaged in policy formulation and conducting in-depth and perhaps cross-cutting reviews with a specific link between the Commissions and achieving the vision of the Community Strategy.

(ii) the Scrutiny Management Committee which has responsibility for:

- approving Work Programmes for the Scrutiny Panels and Commissions
- allocating any tasks referred to it from other parts of the decision-making structure or other bodies

- administering budgets for consultation and research relating to scrutiny and review
  - raising with the Executive issues of concern in respect of the operation of the Scrutiny and Review function.
- (iii) the accommodation of the existing Work Programmes of the Scrutiny and Review Panels in the revised structure.
- (iv) the provision of the following Officer Support:-
- Democratic Services Officers to administer each Panel/Commission
  - Chief Officers to have responsibility for the elements of the system as indicated below:-

Resource	- Director of Finance and E-Government
Performance Management	- Deputy Chief Executive
Healthier and Safer Communities	- Director of Social Services, Health and Housing
Learning Communities	- Director of Education and Culture
Economy/Environment and Transport	- Director of Environment and Development Services

- Policy Officers to support each Scrutiny Commission
- Best Value Team to support the Performance Management Scrutiny Panel
- Corporate Resources to support the Resource Scrutiny Panel
- Lead Officers to be appointed to lead and deliver scrutiny reviews within the Annual Work Programmes and Best Value Reviews
- Research and consultation advice to be provided by the Corporate Policy and Research Unit utilising departmental research capabilities as appropriate
- Training and development for Elected Members and Co-opted Members to be provided by the Training and Development Unit
- Scrutiny Management Committee to be supported by the Democratic Services Manager and the Assistant Chief Executive.

### **3.0 The Scrutiny Panels/Commissions - Issues Dealt With**

There were a wide ranging number of issues dealt with during the Municipal Year, and details of the work undertaken by the individual Panels/Commissions, together with membership and attendance records are set out below.

#### **3.1 Healthier and Safer Communities Scrutiny Commission**

- *Future Provision for Older People in Bury*

Following lengthy deliberations of this issue at a number of meetings, the Commission finally made various recommendations in July 2003 to the Executive regarding the future provision of services for older people in the Borough, with the main proposals being for the closure of elderly persons' homes and examining the development of a village concept for elderly people.

- *Transport Review of Adult Services*

Consideration was given to the results of a review of local authority transport provision for disabled and older people, with the Executive recommended to agree to the reports' proposals and action plan.

- *Community Meals Service*

Consideration was given to the future provision of hot meals to elderly or vulnerable people in their own homes, as a result of difficulties with the existing service. Proposals were put forward to provide a more comprehensive service.

- *Green Paper – Every Child Matters*

The Commission was informed of the contents of the Green Paper, which would have major implications for the way in which children's' services are provided in the future.

- *Asset Strategy for Social Services*

Consideration was given to the current number of social services properties and their uses, and possible future reconfiguration of properties to meet future service needs.

- *Anti-Social Behaviour Orders*

The Commission were informed of the procedures to be followed in introducing ASBO's and on those introduced in Bury.

- *Provision of Mental Health Services at Fairfield Hospital*

A joint presentation was given by officers of this Authority and the Pennine Care NHS (Mental Health) Trust on the joint arrangements for providing mental health services in the Borough.

- *Service Developments of the Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust*

A presentation was given by the Trust of their 5 to 10 year strategy for developing acute services, including paediatric and Accident and Emergency services.

- *Children's Services at Fairfield Hospital*

A joint public meeting was held between the Bury Primary Care Trust and this Commission as part of the consultation process regarding the review of children's services at Fairfield Hospital.

<b>Membership and Attendance Record</b>		
9 meetings were held on (2003), 28 May, 3 July, 4 September, 9 October, 13 November, 11 December, (2004), 29 January, 4 March and 29 April		
<b>Councillors</b>	<b>No of Meetings Attended</b>	
1. D Bigg	9	
2. V D'Albert	7	
3. C M Fitzgerald	5	
4. M Gibb	8	
5. J Grimshaw	9	
6. T Holt	7	
7. J Smith (Chair)	9	
8 M Wiseman	8	
9. Y Wright	6	
<b>Co-opted Members (Non Voting)</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	
1. P Elton	Primary Care Trust	8
2. B Barlow	Bury CHC/Patients & Public Involvement Forum	8
3. A Holt/G Shewan	Community Safety Partnership	0

4.	S Lal	Elders Forum	1
5.	A Norton/H Brown	BADDAC	4
6.	Vacancy	Disability Action Group	0
7.	Vacancy	Youth Cabinet	0
8.	Vacancy	Youth Cabinet	0

### 3.2 Learning Communities Scrutiny Commission

- *Strategic Review of Secondary School Provision in Bury*

The Commission undertook an investigation on Secondary School Provision which involved a consultation with interested groups. The views expressed were considered and forwarded on to the Executive for consideration at its meeting in October 2003.

- *Arts and Museums Service Review*

A detailed review of the Borough's Arts and Museums Service was held as part of the ongoing investigation on improvements to the current service.

- *Review of Library Service*

The Commission conducted a review of the Library Service and the proposed developments. Members also took part in a visit to the Central Libraries in Bolton and Rochdale and input their findings and suggestions.

- *Youth Issues Sub Group*

The Youth Issues Sub Group was set up by the Commission to look in detail at the services provided to young people within the Borough. Members of the Sub Group visited a number of young people at the Y-Zone to talk about issues important to them.

- *Budget Working Group*

The Working Group closely examined the Education related budget issues.

- *Recreation Issues*

Consideration was given to the improvements made to parks and countryside facilities and the issues facing the Civic Halls and catering operations across the authority.

- *Remodelling School Workforce and Implications of Implementation of the National Agreement*

- *ICT in Bury – Schools Update*

The Commission looked at the issue of ICT within Bury Schools and priorities for the future.

- *Maintained Nursery Provision*

Consideration was given to the subject of Nursery provision within the Borough.

- *Behaviour in Schools*

The issue of pupil behaviour in Bury schools was investigated.

- *Post LEA inspection Action Plan*

The Commission examined the outcome of inspection of Bury Education Authority in 2003 by the Office of Standards in Education (Ofsted)

<b>Membership and Attendance Record</b>		
9 meetings were held on (2003), 4 June, 8 July, 17 September, 22 October, 26 November, (2004), 15 January, 12 February, 17 March and 28 April		
<b>Councillors</b>	<b>No of Meetings Attended</b>	
1. D Boden	4	
2. F Chaudry	9	
3. A S Garner	8	
4. A Hughes	2	
5. W Johnson	0	
6. S P Magnall	8	
7. P J Nesbit (Chair)	9	
8. G Sharkey	7	
9. B Vincent	9	
<b>Education Representatives (Voting)</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	
1. Rev Dr Findon	Church of England	4
2. Rev Fr Lawton	Roman Catholic	3
3. Rabbi J Guttenberg	Jewish Faith	0



4.	D K Godwyn	Primary Parent Governor	7
5.	A K Sinkinson/P Coates	Secondary Parent Governor	6
<b>Co-opted Members (Non Voting)</b>			
<b>Name</b>		<b>Representing</b>	
1.	K Hopwood	Teachers - Primary	5
2.	H Andrews	Teachers - Secondary	5
3.	G Stainthorpe	Teachers – Special	5
4.	J Atherton	Lifelong Learning – Adult	3
5.	G Harrison	Lifelong Learning – Youth	0
6.	M Wild	Governors Forum	8
7.	F Lyons (resigned October 2003)/ Vacancy	Elders Forum	2
8.	S Cohen	REC	8
9.	S Reynolds (From Jan 2004)	Early Years Development	4
10.	Vacancy	Youth Cabinet	0
11.	Vacancy	Youth Cabinet	0

### 3.3 Economy, Environment and Transport Scrutiny Commission

- *Decriminalised Parking Enforcement*

The Commission received a presentation from Bury Parking Services and NCP reviewing the first 6 months of Decriminalised Policy Enforcement operation. As a result, a sub group was established to consult on operational issues and monitor the performance of the service.

Recommendations from the Sub Group, which were endorsed by the Commission, have resulted in the introduction of the following initiatives:

- A clamping scheme for persistent evaders
- A pilot scheme to extend enforcement to include alternate Sundays
- A scheme to introduce warning leaflets, along with Penalty Charge Notices, explaining the Blue Badge Scheme and how to get the initial charge cancelled.

Following a high profile case where an appeal was upheld by the National Parking Adjudication Service, on the grounds that photographic evidence had been tampered with, the Commission requested the attendance of the Executive Member Regeneration and Transport, representatives of Bury Parking Services and a senior National NCP Manager to examine the issues surrounding the case.

- *Recycling*

The Commission received a presentation from the Director of the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority detailing the Greater Manchester Waste Strategy.

The Commission also considered a report detailing the progress of the pilot kerbside recycling scheme of alternative weekly collections of recycled and residual waste in Bury. The Commission agreed to support the retention of the alternate weekly collection scheme and recommend its' extension over the next 4 years to enable statutory recycling targets to be met.

- *Air Quality*

The Commission considered the progress made by the Authority in relation to Local Air Quality Management. Following the submission of a report from the Environment Forum Resource Issues Group highlighting the environmental issues surrounding carbon dioxide and air travel, the Commission requested that the Draft Manchester Airport Environment Plan be considered at a future meeting.

Following discussion of the Draft Plan, the comments and views of the Commission and the Resource Issues Group were forwarded to the Executive Member Regeneration and Housing for consideration in the Council's official response to the Draft Plan.

- *Work Place Travel Plan*

Following a presentation and report on the proposed Work Place Travel Plan, a working group was set up to look at the implications of the Plan. The Working Group made a number of recommendations in support of the Plan and Co-opted 2 of its members onto the Joint Consultative Committee Car Allowance Working Party.

- *Housing Revenue Account*

A special meeting of the Commission was arranged to consider the proposed Housing Revenue Account prior to the Budget. Support was given to the proposed HRA for 2004/2005.

The Commission highlighted problems arising from the backlog in the assessment and processing of Housing Benefit claims and requested that the Resource Scrutiny Panel look into this matter.

- *Local Development Framework*

A presentation was given to the Commission providing an update on the implications for Bury arising from the Government's Planning and Compulsory Purchase Bill. Members were informed of the main features of the Local development Framework, which will replace the Unitary Development Plan.

The Commission has also received the following reports prior to consideration by the Executive

- Introductory tenancies
- Draft Black Minority Ethnic Housing Strategy
- Choice Based Element of Housing Services Lettings Policy
- LA21 Strategy, Review of Progress 1998-2003
- Draft Walking Strategy

<b>Membership and Attendance Record</b>		
9 meetings were held on (2003), 10 June, 15 July, 23 September, 28 October, 25 November, (2004), 13 January, 12 February, 19 February and 6 April		
<b>Councillors</b>	<b>No of Meetings Attended</b>	
1. P Ashworth	9	
2. E B Briggs	8	
3. K S Briggs	6	
4. D M Cassidy	9	
5. A S Garner	6	
6. E K Grime	7	
7. D L Gunther	8	
8 S P Magnall (Chair)	9	
9. J Smith	8	
<b>Co-opted Members</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	
1. G Higginbottom	Environmental Forum	7
2. A Dures/Vacancy	Elders Forum	1
3. A Norton/H Brown	BADDAC	5

4.	A Roscoe	Tenants & Residents Association	3
5.	P Weatherby	Tenants & Residents Association	5
6.	Vacancy	Youth Cabinet	0
7.	Vacancy	Youth Cabinet	0

### 3.4 Resource Scrutiny Panel

- *Financial Monitoring*

The Panel is a key element within the Annual Budgetary process and receives reports, for comment, on the Housing Revenue Account; the Revenue Budget and the Capital Programme before they are forwarded to the Executive and Council.

As part of its financial monitoring remit the Panel receives ongoing reports as follows:

- Treasury Management Annual Strategy and Plan
- Statement of Accounts
- Capital and Revenue outturn
- Corporate Financial Monitoring
- Medium Term Financial Strategy

- *Personnel Monitoring*

The Panel receives regular monitoring reports on the following:

- Sickness Absence
- Disciplinary Casework
- Recruitment
- Accident Analysis

It has also received for comment the Human Resource Strategy.

- *Monitoring Reports*

The Panel has received regular updates on the following:

- Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates Collection
- Accounts to be written off
- Sundry Debtor Collection
- Housing and Council Tax Benefits
- Risk Management

- *Other Reports and Issues considered by the Panel*
  - Housing Revenue Account – Breakdown of Sheltered Scheme Support Charges
  - Customer Care Strategy
  - Corporate Asset Management Planning
  - ICT Strategy
  - Glass Testing Unit
  - Corporate Health and Safety Audit
  - Workplace Travel Plan
  - Emergency Planning
  - Corporate Asset Management Planning
- *Supporting People – Joint Scrutiny Panel*

The Supporting People “Pot” for Bury was substantially increased during 2003, and in response a joint scrutiny panel was established comprising Members of the Healthier and Safer Communities, Resource and Economy, Environment and Transport Scrutiny Panels, as a means of co-ordinating the development and delivery of the Supporting People Strategy and Programme.

Supporting People is an important and wide ranging development in the supported housing world and whilst the Local Authority is the recognised “administering authority,” the responsibility for determining priorities and expenditure lies with a tripartite Commissioning Body made up of the Local Authority, the Probation Service and the PCT.

- *Asset Strategy and Options Appraisal for Leisure Services – Joint Scrutiny Panel*

At the Scrutiny Management Committee on 4 December 2003, it was decided to establish a special scrutiny panel to consider the Asset Strategy and Options Appraisal for Sport and Recreation from within Leisure Services.

The Panel was given the task of determining a preferred option and reporting this back to the Executive by September 2004.

<b>Membership and Attendance Record</b>	
10 meetings were held on (2003), 29 May, 2 July, 11 September, 16 October, 20 November, 18 December, (2004), 17 February, 18 March, 30 March and 4 May	
<b>Councillors</b>	<b>No of Meetings Attended</b>
1. K Audin	10
2. E B Briggs	7
3. J P Costello	10

4.	V D'Albert		5
5.	A K Mathews		6
6.	P J Nesbit		7
7.	B J Sullivan		9
8	J W H Taylor		9
9.	J F Walton (Chair)		10
<b>Co-opted Members</b>			
<b>Name</b>		<b>Representing</b>	
1.	A Withington	Standards Independent Member	9
2.	Vacancy	Youth Cabinet	0
3.	Vacancy	Youth Cabinet	0

### 3.5 Performance Management Scrutiny Panel

- *Draft Best Value Performance Plan 2003/2004*

The Scrutiny Panel is given an opportunity to comment on the Plan prior to its submission to the Executive for approval. The Council has to publish a Best Value Performance Plan by 30 June each year.

- *Ongoing Performance Monitoring Reports*
  - **Investors in People**
  - **Monitoring of Best Value Improvement Plans**
    - Revenues and Benefits
    - Cultural Services
    - Sport and Recreation
    - Highways
    - Street Scene
    - Corporate Governance
    - Services for Older People
    - People with a Disability
    - Pupil Support
    - Adult Education Service
    - Rent Collection Service
    - Housing Repairs and Maintenance
  - **Bi-Annual Monitoring of Performance Indicators**
  - **Monitoring Information on Repairs and Maintenance and Housing Services**
  - **Sickness Monitoring**

- **Comparative Performance of Best Value Performance Indicators – Year on Year Basis**
- **CPA Improvement Plan**
- *Statutory, Annual and Best Value Plans*

The Panel has considered the following Plans:

  - **Local Education Authority Inspection**
  - **Social Services Annual Review of Performance**
  - **Culture Services Whole Service Inspection**
  - **Housing Rents Review**
  - **National Care Standards Inspection Report**
- *Other Reports and Items Commissioned and Considered*
  - **Housing Benefit Performance**
  - **Housing Services Re-Structure**
  - **Corporate Performance Assessment Service Scores**

<b>Membership and Attendance Record</b>	
6 meetings were held on (2003), 3 June, 30 October, 27 November, (2004), 4 February, 30 March and (13 May)	
<b>Councillors</b>	<b>No of Meetings Attended</b>
1. R A Bibby	4
2. K S Briggs	5
3. A J Cummings	6
4. W J Davison	1
5. D M Higgin	6
6. W Johnson	0
7. G Sharkey	5
8. P Timperley	4
9. S J Treadgold (Chair)	6

<b>Co-opted Members</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	
1. H Gilchrist	Local Strategic Partnership	1
2. Vacancy	Youth Cabinet	0
3. Vacancy	Youth Cabinet	0

### **3.6 Scrutiny Management Committee**

- *Good Practice Guide for Overview and Scrutiny*

A draft Good Practice Guide was agreed for consultation purposes with all Members, Co-opted members and other interested parties.

- *Annual Scrutiny Report*

Committee agreed that the annual report for the 2003/2004 municipal year should be submitted to the 2004 annual council meeting.

- *Work Programmes 2003/2004*

Work Programmes of the Scrutiny Panels/Commissions for 2003/2004 were approved.

- *Overview and Scrutiny Meeting Leaflet And Web Pages*

A draft leaflet for the public attending Scrutiny meetings and the development of web pages for inclusion on the Council's web site were approved.

- *Developing The Overview And Scrutiny Function*

Consideration was given to the links between Overview and Scrutiny and the corporate planning processes, particularly the Corporate Plan and the Annual Forward Planning Event in order to ensure an integrated approach to the identification of corporate priorities.

A key element of the scrutiny process is the work programme and the Committee decided to adopt the prioritisation process used at the Forward Planning Event to develop future work programmes.

The final meetings in the 2003/2004 Municipal year have been dedicated to Scoping Workshops for work programme development and it is expected that this process will continue in future years.



- *Resource Allocation*

The Committee agreed in principle to allocate the whole of the unspent £21,000 Scrutiny Research Budget for 2003/2004 to enable the engagement of Consultants for Review of the Asset Strategy and Options Appraisal for Leisure Services being undertaken by a Joint Scrutiny Panel.

- *Parliamentary Select Committees*

The Chair and Democratic Services Team Leader (Scrutiny) attended a seminar on select Committees organised by the Centre for Public Scrutiny which included a visit to see the operation of a Select Committee.

<b>Membership and Attendance Record</b>	
5 meetings were held on (2003), 16 June, 2 October, 4 December, (2004), 3 March, and 5 May	
<b>Councillors</b>	<b>No of Meetings Attended</b>
1. V D'Albert	4
2. S P Magnall	4
3. P J Nesbit	4
4. J Smith (Chair)	5
5. S J Treadgold	5
6. J F Walton	5

#### **4.0 Development of Work Programmes for 2004/2005**

At each of the last meetings of the Scrutiny Panels/Commissions in the Municipal Year, consideration was given to adopting a more proactive role by establishing a small number of reviews for consideration in 2004/2005. The aim is to break away from the old committee system, and to reduce the number of items considered by prioritising work. The setting up of a number of reviews will involve moving towards an evidence based structure for meetings, and adopting different approaches such as interviews and site visits.

At its meeting on 4 March 2004 the Healthier and Safer Communities Scrutiny Commission have already given approval to a Work Programme for health issues, with the first issue for review being healthy eating in schools, particularly in East Bury. Two meetings of a small Panel of Members have already met to establish the terms of reference for the Review, and to interview the Borough Leisure Services Officer and the Head of Catering.

## **5.0 Health Scrutiny**

2003/2004 has been an important year for the development of Health Scrutiny in Bury. On 1 January 2003, in accordance with the Health and Social Care Act 2001, the Council took on responsibility for the scrutiny of health and health services. This had previously been carried out by the Bury Community Health Council, which was formally abolished by the Government on 1 December 2003. In recognition of the valuable work undertaken by the Community Health Council over 30 years, the Worshipful the Mayor of Bury hosted a Civic Lunch at the Town Hall on 26 November 2003.

2003/2004 has been a development year for health scrutiny and attention has therefore focused on the following areas:-

- (a) Bury Council's Healthier and Safer Communities Scrutiny Commission
- (b) Joint Health Scrutiny Committees in respect of Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust and Pennine Care NHS Trust.
- (c) Association of Greater Manchester Joint Health Scrutiny Panel

These are dealt with below.

### **(a) Bury Council's Healthier and Safer Scrutiny Commission**

The Democratic Health Network/Local Government Information Unit's Tool Kit has been used as a guide for developing health scrutiny in Bury. The emphasis has been very much on partnership working with NHS colleagues in the Bury NHS Primary Care Trust, Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust and Pennine Care NHS Trust to develop jointly new terms of reference, Protocols for working together and a work programme.

The Council have utilised the expertise from the Centre of Health Care Management at Manchester University to raise awareness of health scrutiny legislation, and develop a draft work programme. Members of the Voluntary Sector and the public were consulted on the Programme, which included the issue of a press release seeking the views of the public, and also raising the profile of the work of scrutiny. Presentations were also made to the Council's six Area Boards on health scrutiny awareness and the Draft Programme in November 2003 and January 2004. The results of the consultation were reported to the Healthier and Safer Communities Scrutiny Commission on 3 March where six priorities for future action were agreed. One of these areas was Healthy Eating in East Bury and work on this has already commenced based on a new project management approach between Members and officers. This Project Management approach is being adopted by all the Council's Scrutiny Commissions/Panels.

Although the focus has been on developmental work, this has not prevented the Commission from tackling issues which affect the health of Bury residents. For instance the Chief Executive of the Pennine Care NHS Trust was interviewed by the Commission to explain why Ward 31 at Fairfield Hospital had been closed. Following interview by the Commission an improvement plan was approved at a subsequent meeting of the Commission.

In addition the Director of Strategic Services at Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust was instrumental in establishing new channels of communication with the Healthier and Safer Communities Scrutiny Commission to discuss options for service changes prior to any statutory consultation. The Director has provided The Commission with regular progress reports on the work of the Trust.

## **(b) Joint Health Scrutiny Committees**

Each of the Joint Committees are represented by 3 Councillors from each of the constituent Authorities, meeting on a quarterly basis. Delegated scrutiny powers have been given to the Joint Committees by each of the Councils.

- **Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust Joint Health Scrutiny Committee**

The Council have developed an effective partnership with Manchester City Council, Oldham MBC and Rochdale MBC to establish a Joint Health Scrutiny Committee for the Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust to scrutinise health issues and health services which cross the boundaries of these areas. Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust is responsible for general hospital services at Fairfield General Hospital, North Manchester General Hospital, Rochdale Infirmary, Birch Hill Hospital and the Royal Oldham Hospital.

The Joint Committee have:-

- (a) received presentations which outlined the services which the Acute Trust provides;
- (b) monitored developments underpinning the proposals for reconfiguration of children's Services in the North East Sector; and
- (c) sought information from The Trust on its financial status.

- **Pennine Care NHS Trust Joint Health Scrutiny Committee**

Similar partnership arrangements have been set up with Oldham MBC, Rochdale MBC and Stockport MBC to establish a Joint Health Scrutiny Committee for Pennine Care NHS Trust. Pennine Care NHS Trust is responsible for providing Mental Health services across Bury, Rochdale, Oldham, Stockport and Tameside.

The Joint Committee have:-

- (a) received a presentation from the Care Trust which outlined their services; and
- (b) received information from the Trust about access to services and related areas of development which have helped the Trust meet targets.

Issues relating to financial contributions from Primary Care NHS Trusts across the geographical patch covered by the Pennine Care NHS Trust will be considered as part of the work programme. Both Joint Committees have formulated broad potential topics for scrutiny following attendance at a training event.

All of the Councils which receive services from the Pennine Care NHS Trust and Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust have agreed that Bury MBC should lead the new joint scrutiny committees from an administrative perspective. The Councils have also agreed to jointly fund a Joint Health Scrutiny Officer to be responsible for administering the Joint Committees and supporting scrutiny investigations.

The Joint Committees have been established to:-

- (a) ensure NHS organisations are not burdened by multiple scrutiny exercises in one year;
- (b) reduce duplication of time and effort in Councils;
- (c) secure value for money;
- (d) improve co-ordination of scrutiny and better opportunities to learn from reviews.

**(c) AGMA Joint Health Scrutiny Panel**

All ten Greater Manchester Councils have agreed to form a joint Panel to scrutinise the following services:-

The Greater Manchester Strategic Health Authority  
Christies Cancer Services  
The Greater Manchester Ambulance Service

The main subject dealt with by The Panel has been to consider the future reconfiguration of children's services, following a recent report which concludes that the current provision of children's secondary healthcare services in Greater Manchester will not support the development of best practice in children's care. The report made a number of recommendations about issues that should be taken into account in developing new proposals, such as good access to transport, the retention of local accident and emergency services and consideration of families in difficult circumstances.

The Panel have also received a presentation from The Chief Executive of the Greater Manchester Ambulance Service.

## **6.0 Conclusion**

This is the second Annual Report on the Scrutiny function in Bury MBC. A lot of hard work has gone into developing the function by setting up Work Programmes that will result in a different type of review next year that will result in a more investigative proactive approach.

The year has also seen greater partnership working with colleagues in the health service, including the co-option of the Director of Public Health for Bury Primary Care Trust onto the Healthier and Safer Communities Scrutiny Commission, together with the establishment of the Joint Health Scrutiny Commissions.

Ideas and suggestions from non-Executive Councillors, co-opted members and members of the public about areas of the Council service which might benefit from being scrutinised, are always welcome. Scrutiny Members will strive to provide robust and thorough reviews in an attempt to assist the process of providing better services for the public.