

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2014/2015



Department for Resources and Regulation

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Background

This Annual Report summarises the activities of the Council's Scrutiny Committees and reports on some of the highlights and achievements of the last year. 2014/2015 has been the third year of a new scrutiny structure which has streamlined the number of Committees. Within the structure there is provision for Overview Project Groups to be set up to carry out detailed reviews on a task and finish basis. Details of the outcomes from individual reviews are included within the report.

Throughout the year the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has tackled a wide and varied work programme cutting across all Council Departments. The Committee have engaged with Cabinet Members prior to decisions being taken and also held them to account following decisions through the call-in mechanism.

The Health Scrutiny Committee have scrutinised the provision of adult care and local NHS services as well as being consulted on proposed changes that will affect the residents of Bury.

The Council has continued to take the lead role in administering the two Joint Health Scrutiny Committees established in January 2004, which review the work of the Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust and the Pennine Care NHS Trust. Excellent working relationships have continued with Members and Officers in both the NHS and in the partner Local Authorities of Manchester, Stockport, Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside.

Overview and Scrutiny in Bury

Overview and Scrutiny Committees are an important part of the way we make decisions. Although they have no Executive powers, the scrutiny process does allow Members to explore issues in depth and help to influence decisions through recommendations to the Cabinet or Full Council.

In Bury, the role of scrutiny bodies can be broken down into these two main functions: -

Holding the Cabinet to Account

This involves scrutinising decisions before they are implemented by way of 'Call-in' to the relevant Scrutiny Committee for debate. The effect of a 'Call-in' is to suspend the decision until the Scrutiny Committee has had the opportunity to consider the implications of the decision and, where appropriate, to offer comments back to the Cabinet.

Policy Development

This involves Scrutiny Committees undertaking reviews of functions within their individual remits leading to recommendations to the Cabinet, and to assist in the development of future policies and strategies.

In Bury the following Committees are constituted to carry out Overview and Scrutiny in Bury:

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Set up to scrutinise Cabinet decisions and Council performance, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee operates within the following terms of reference:

- To review and scrutinise the decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions.
- To review and scrutinise the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and all particular service areas.
- To set up, appoint and monitor Overview Project Groups (set up to carry out reviews of policies, services or the impact of decisions).
- To make recommendations to the Cabinet and/or appropriate Committee and/or Council arising from the outcome of the Scrutiny process.
- To review or scrutinise decisions made or other action taken in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions.
- Oversight of the provision, planning and management of the assets and audit arrangements.
- Oversight of the Council's corporate plans and strategies and the monitoring of the corporate plan and departmental plans.
- To scrutinise outside bodies and partners relevant to the Council.
- To receive all reports from external inspectors.

Health Scrutiny Committee

A dedicated Health Scrutiny Committee was set up to scrutinise partner organisations on issues relevant to the residents of the Borough. Full terms of reference are:

- To carry out the Council's statutory obligations in relation to reviewing and scrutinising any matters relating to the planning provision and operation of health services in the area of the Council.
- To oversee the health and well being of the borough's population
- To scrutinise the provision, planning and management of Adult Care Services.
- To monitor the implementation of any scrutiny recommendations accepted by the Cabinet.

Overview Project Groups

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is responsible for setting up and monitoring reviews carried out by Overview Project Groups. These Groups are tasked with reviewing particular policy areas with a view to making recommendations that will ultimately result in service improvements.

Key Outcomes

During 2014/2015 the Council's Scrutiny Committees and Overview Project Groups have looked at a wide range of topics and issues. Various methods have been used to examine and investigate issues which have resulted in positive outcomes in terms of policy development and holding decision makers to account.

Children's Safeguarding

Set up and monitored by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Children's Safeguarding Overview Project Group carried out a detailed review of Children's Safeguarding services and performance. Since the first meeting in November 2014 a large amount of work has been undertaken by the Group. Much of the initial work has focused on providing Members with a detailed context of the issues surrounding the safeguarding of children and ensuring an understanding of the processes, procedures and policies that are in place.

Members of the Group also attended visits to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and visited the Advice and Assessment Team within Knowsley Place.

Evidence to assist the Group has been provided from a number of Senior Officers and practitioners, through both written reports and interview sessions, including:

- Jackie Gower – Assistant Director Safeguarding and Social Care
- Martyn Burrell (Strategic Lead – Safeguarding)
- Mike Nugent (Interim Strategic Lead for Quality Assurance and Performance Management)
- Mike Cross (Operation Manager – Youth Offending Team)
- Lisa Bell (Manager MASH/CSE Team)
- Rhiannon Parker (Social Worker – new recruit)
- Leigh Garside (Social Worker – new recruit)
- Sarah Bowden (Social Worker – new recruit)

Looking forward, it is hoped that the work to date can be built upon during the forthcoming Municipal Year as the Group look to focus in on particular areas. At an early stage Members of the Group recognised the complex multi agency approach to safeguarding meant that to treat the review as a time bound, self contained piece of work would not do justice to the critical nature of the subject matter. An interim report was submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in March 2015 where agreement was given for the continuation of the Group with the existing membership where possible.

Petitions Review

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertook a review of the way a petition relating to Children's Centres had been dealt with by the Council. The Petition Organiser, Mrs Sian Crosby, addressed the Committee outlining the reasons for requesting the review. The Committee acknowledged the concerns raised and made recommendations to the Leader of the Council requesting that the Petitions Scheme be reviewed, with consideration being given to its inclusion within the Council Constitution.

Furthermore it has been agreed that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee providing an update in respect of the implementation of changes relating to Children's Centres.

Worklessness

The Worklessness Overview Project Group had been set up to review the work undertaken by the Authority to support unemployed residents across the borough. The Group reported its findings to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which approved a number of recommendations relating to :

- The Promotion of Radcliffe and Prestwich Works
- Request to seek external funding to employ a mentor to support Apprentices
- Increasing computer access for the public within Council buildings in line with the Digital Inclusion Strategy

Alternative Services – Under 5's

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee questioned the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People on proposals to re-design the way in which Children's Centres in Bury are currently operating to support under 5's and their families.

Following a recommendation from the Committee the consultation period on the proposals was extended.

Performance Monitoring

As part of its performance monitoring role, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has received regular reports in relation to Corporate Performance; Financial Monitoring; Treasury Management; and all the 2015/16 draft Budgetary reports.

Local Health Scrutiny Committee

Throughout the year the Committee have received reports and updates on the following: -

- **Healthier Together**
The Committee have received regular updates in relation to the ongoing review of healthcare in Greater Manchester. The Committee welcomed Stuart North and Dr Kiran Patel to each meeting to provide regular updates. The September 2015 meeting of the Committee was dedicated to Healthier Together. Lead officers and clinicians attended the meeting to talk about the proposals and answer questions.
- **Infection Prevention Control**
An update on the service and how it will be established within the Council's Environmental Health Unit. Regular updates and performance information was requested to be reported to future meetings.
- **Implications to Health Scrutiny**
The Committee received an overview of the outcomes following the Francis Enquiry and the Winterbourne and Keogh Reviews and any implications to the CCG, the Council and the Health Scrutiny Committee
- **Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment**
The report highlighted issues across the borough in relation to pharmacy provision and the services within them. Discussion took place in relation to the need to advertise and educate wider services provided by pharmacies.

- **Adult Social Care Services – Annual Complaints Report**
2013/2014 report submitted to Members for discussion and approval – Members were encouraged by the contents of the report and the way that complaints were dealt with.
- **Clinical Commissioning Group Quality Strategy**
The CCG Executive Nurse reported on how the CCG meet their statutory obligations to ensure that services commissioned or provided by the across the borough are of a good quality.
- **Better Care Fund**
The plan was signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board on 18th September . Members had raised concerns in relation to: -
 - Financial Risks
 - Data Sharing
 - Community Services Provision
- **Safeguarding Adults – Peer Review Report**
Report submitted to Members for discussion and information – The The report provided independent feedback from the peer review that had been undertaken. The Committee were also presented with the action plan that resulted from the Review.
- **Terms of Reference for the Pennine Acute and Pennine Care Joint Health Scrutiny Committees.**
The Committee agreed the updates made to the Terms of Reference for the two Joint Scrutiny Committees.
- **Update from the GP Federation**
The Chair of the GP Federation attended to update Members on the work of the GP Federation.
The Committee received an evaluation report for the Healthier Radcliffe Pilot which set out the uptake of the extended services and showed how the objectives had been met.

The Committee were also pleased to receive information setting out how the funding would be used following the successful application to the Prime Minister’s Challenge Fund to run the ‘Bury – Easy GP scheme’.
- **Integrated Diabetes Team**
Following the work of the Diabetes Group and their input into the service specification, the lead consultant involved in the introduction of the team attended the Health Scrutiny Committee to report on the project to date and answer any questions.
- The Interim Director of Public Health, Lesley Jones was appointed to the position on a permanent basis following a recruitment exercise. Lesley attended a number of meetings in her capacity as Director and will continue to do so.

Working Groups (Health Scrutiny)

Dentistry Group

Following discussions at a meeting of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Members resolved to establish a working group to review dentistry provision within the Borough. The working group was chaired by Councillor Bury and included Councillors Grimshaw, Haroon, Kerrison and Walker.

Members agreed that the working group would consider the following issues:

- Dentistry provision within the Borough
- Oral health needs assessment
- Oral health promotions team
- The role of NHS England in commissioning dentistry provision within the Borough
- Complaints

Evidence to assist the Group has been provided from a number of Senior Officers and practitioners, through both written reports and interview sessions, including:

- Lindsey Bowes – NHS England Contracts Manager (Dental).
- Pedro Moriera – Senior Dental Officer, Oral Health Promotions Team.
- Mike McGrady – Public Health Consultant, Public Health England.
- Stephanie Mitchell – Health Improvement Specialist, Public Health, Bury.

The Group met on three occasions and identified two areas of significant concern; child dental health, especially in younger children and a higher than average number of general anesthetic teeth extractions within the Borough. In order to address some of these concerns, a revised oral health strategy is currently being developed. The working group has therefore resolved to ask the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review the draft strategy and make comments and suggestions on its content.

Work of the Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committees (JHOSC)

The two Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee were established jointly by Bury, Manchester, Oldham and Rochdale Councils to consider issues affecting the health of local people (the overview role) and to call the NHS to account on behalf of the local communities (the scrutiny role).

Each of these Councils has appointed three representatives to sit on each Committee.

Work undertaken by the JHOSC for Pennine Care during 2014/15

This year the Joint Committee began the Municipal Year with the appointment of a new Chair, Stockport Councillor, Tom McGee.

The Joint Committee choose to focus its attention on how the emergency services respond to people with mental health problems at times of crisis. The objective of this piece of work was to review the performance of the Pennine Care Foundation Trust against the national Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat. The [Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat](#) is a national agreement between services and agencies involved in the care and support of people in crisis. It sets out how organisations will work together better to make sure that people get the help they need when they are having a mental health crisis.

The Joint Committee arranged a half day workshop to discuss this issue; in attendance were representatives from the Pennine Care Foundation Trust, Bury Clinical Commissioning Group, the Fire Service, the Police and Crime Commissioner and Councillors from across the five Boroughs within the Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust footprint.

Following on from discussions at the workshop, members of the Joint Committee identified the following priorities:

- Strategic Mental Health Partnership Board to look at issues around data sharing between partners.
- Greater emphasis on preventative work.
- Effective and appropriate responses to those in crisis.
- Further training for staff working within the police, fire and ambulance service.

This piece of review work will continue into the next municipal year; the Joint Committee will interview representatives from the Greater Manchester Ambulance Service and review further work undertaken by the Pennine Care Trust in respect of the Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat.

The Joint Committee has also reviewed the Pennine Care Foundation Trusts Service Development Strategy. The Service Development Strategy sets out how Pennine Care intends to develop its services, improve the quality of care and make efficiencies over the next five years.

The Trust intends to make efficiency savings of £42 million; the Joint Committee has interviewed Trust Representatives, including the Chief Executive; Professor Esmail, Professor in General Practice at Manchester University and addressed concerns raised by Stockport Healthwatch and The Secretary of State Norman Lamb.

In reviewing the proposed changes the Chair, Councillor Tom McGee has written to the Chief Executive of the Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust to highlight that the Trust must consult service users and prospective users in planning services, in the development and consideration of proposals for changes in the way services are provided and in decisions affecting the operation of those services.

Members of the Joint Committee also choose to review the number of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service users admitted to adult inpatient wards. The Joint Committee interviewed the CAMHS Inpatient Service Manager, Hope and Horizon Units, Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust and also Steve Hamer, Deputy Mental Health Lead, NHS England. Following on from these discussions, Members resolved to receive a bi-monthly analysis of all the children and adolescents admitted on to the adult wards and the reason for their admission.

The Joint Committee has also considered; access to psychological therapies; the dementia care pathway within the five Boroughs; the Annual Complaints report and plans for the integrated of health and social care across the footprint.

The Joint Committee has also provided a commentary to the regulator Monitor in respect of the Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust Quality Account; received a Trust progress report in response to the recommendations contained with the scrutiny review report on Whistle blowing and in light of the recommendations contained within the Francis report, now consider quarterly complaints reports.

Going forward, the Joint Committee will focus its attention on suicide prevention, the newly introduced mental health waiting times and the prevalence of people with mental health conditions in the criminal justice system.

Work undertaken by the JHOSC during 2014/15

The JHOSC commented on the Quality Account of the Pennine Acute NHS Hospitals Trust after the end of the municipal year 2013/14. This commentary was included in the published Quality Account in July 2014. The JHOSC also commented on the Quality Account of the North West Ambulance Service Trust (NWAST) at the beginning of the municipal year 2014/15. Both commentaries were focussed on the areas of work undertaken by the JHOSC during 2013/14.

The JHOSC completed its review of End of Life Care and undertook a review of Elective Access within the Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust during 2014/15.

The review of End of Life Care, started in 2013/14, continued into 2014/15 in order for the JHOSC to scrutinise the trial of the new End of Life Care Plan, which replaced the Liverpool Care Pathway. The trial of this plan commenced in August 2014 and the review report was published in December 2014. The JHOSC made recommendations which were accepted by the Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust and by the CCGs relating to the need for improved commissioning and better joined up care.

The JHOSC determined to undertake a full scrutiny review of Elective Access within the Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, following on from Monitoring of waiting lists. The report was published at the end of the municipal year and included the following recommendations:

- The Joint Committee would want to see test results being consistently notified to patients and their GPs within an agreed and publicised timescale, as with discharge letters

- The Joint Committee would ask the Trust to take forward proposed work on scheduling of tests to avoid multiple visits to hospital.
- The Joint Committee would ask the Trust to continue its work on communication with patients to ensure that timely, clear, appropriate letters are sent to patients from all departments delivering elective access care.
- The Joint Committee would ask the CCGs to push forward with their work to ensure that patients fit for discharge can return home or to an appropriate care setting. This is not only an important area for hospitals trying to meet the increasing demand for their services but also a major factor in reducing the length of hospital stays and bringing care closer to home.
- The JHOSC would ask the Trust to monitor cancellations of operations prior the planned date and repeat cancellations prior to the planned date, in the same way that they monitor cancellations on the date. The JHOSC would want the Trust to monitor the reasons for the cancellations and the areas where they occur.

Member Development

During the year work has been undertaken in conjunction with the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) to examine the strengths of practices in Bury and outline the issues that emerged from Councillors, officers and other stakeholders. CfPS recognised in its review report *“the confidence that Bury Council displays in the management of its scrutiny functions which is demonstrated by its commitment to training (in new health legislation, for example), but also in its determination to make the time for learning and reflection, even when things seem to be going well.”*

Through the Council’s Member Development Group future Scrutiny training is to be arranged which will include a training session for all Members in June 2015.

Contact Us:

For further information on the content of this report or about overview and scrutiny work in Bury, please contact us through the following methods:

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Overview and Scrutiny Committee –2014-15

Item/Topic	Comments
Corporate Financial Monitoring Reports	Overview and Scrutiny Committee – quarterly updates from Cabinet Member
Corporate Plan Progress Reports	Overview and Scrutiny Committee - quarterly updates from Leader of the Council
Safeguarding Children	Review carried out through Overview Project Group – recommendations approved by Overview and Scrutiny Committee to continue work into 2015/16
Poverty Strategy	Overview and Scrutiny Committee Commented on the Strategy and are undertaking monitoring of its implementation
Recycling	Call in of decision to change household collections – No comments offered
Alternative Services – Under 5's	Recommendation to extend consultation period approved. Implementation to be Monitored.
Worklessness (outline scope to include a review of the new collection arrangements; examination of problems encountered by residents; and the arrangement for dealing with issues via the customer contact centre)	Review carried out through Overview Project Group – recommendations approved by Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Civic Halls	Carried over to 2015/16
Employee Sickness Levels	Examination of the latest sickness absence statistics along with details of the actions being taken to contribute to reduction of the levels of sickness absence. Recommendation to ensure levels kept under review by the Committee

Item/topic	Comments
Healthier Together	Ongoing concerns raised in relation to transport. Members agreed that that the Health O&S Committee would receive regular updates.
Infection Control	Members discussed the transfer of infection control services into the Local Authority. Services will for an interim period to be provided by Intrahealth. Members resolved to monitor the transfer.
Recent reviews and reports into Care Standards and Safeguarding –Local Implications	Members considered the implications for the LA, the CCG and other partner agencies of the Winterbourne, Francis and Keogh reviews.
Annual Complaints Report Adult Social Care Services	The report considered sets out statistical data in relation to complaints received as well as evidence of learning and improvements made as a result of complaints. Members asked that analysis could be provided of complaints forwarded on by Elected Members.
Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment Consultation	Members of the Health O&S Committee were invited to comment on an evaluation of pharmaceutical need across the Borough. The Chair submitted a response on behalf of the committee highlighting concerns in relation to the lack of pharmacy provisions in the Besses Ward.
Bury Clinical Commissioning Group – Quality Strategy	Members considered Bury's Quality and compliance strategy.
Better Care Fund	The Better Care Fund is a joint pooled budget for health and social care. Members expressed concern about problems with data sharing amongst partner agencies and agreed to continue to monitor the role out of the monies associated with the Better Care Fund.
GP Federation	Members considered a Healthier Radcliffe evaluation report.
Drug and Alcohol Service Update	Members reviewed the performance of the recently retendered Drug and Alcohol Service; service users, staff and senior management were invited to attend.

Pennine Acute Work plan 2014/15

Date of Meeting	Item/Topic
24 June 2014	Introduction to the Trust and its future strategy Responses to the review report on CCG commissioning of Acute Services Consideration of the JHOSC workplan 2014/15 Update on Waiting Lists within the Trust End of Life Care
29 July 2014	Scrutiny of the public consultation on the proposals for the Healthier Together reconfiguration Specialist Commissioning of Acute Services Local Authority Health Scrutiny Guidance Health Profiles
9 Sept 2014	Scrutiny of Elective Access (<i>possible piece of work for a sub-group or set timescale for JHOSC scrutiny and report</i>) Update on paediatric services (POAU at Fairfield and patient pathways) <i>CCG Commissioning of Acute Services</i> <i>Changes to Ophthalmology Day Case Services</i> <i>JHOSC response/comments on the Healthier Together public consultation</i>
21 Oct 2014	Scrutiny of End of Life Care – pilot of the Individual Care Plan Healthier Together – public consultation update/outcomes
25 Nov 2014	Scrutiny of Elective Access including waiting times Receive report on Scrutiny of End of Life Care
27 Jan 2015	Monitor review recommendations of the scrutiny of CCG commissioning of Acute Services Scrutiny of Elective Access.
24 March 2015	Receive report on the scrutiny of Elective Access Consider the content of the JHOSC's commentary on the Trust's Quality Account.

Date of Meeting	Issue/Topic
19 June 2014	Integration of health and social care Lesley Mort, Chief Officer, Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale CCG Joan Beresford, Adult Care, Stockport Council Richard Spearing and Martin Roe, Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust
24 July 2014	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Access to Psychological therapies
2 Oct 2014	Annual Complaints report Review of the Pennine Care Whistle Blowing Policy Service Development Strategy Dementia Care Pathway
11 Dec 2014	Q3 Complaints report NHS England – Tier 4 CAMHS Psychological therapies update Quality Account Update Service Development Strategy
19 Mar 2015	Professor Esmail; Professor of General Practice, Manchester University Proposed changes to secondary mental health services in Stockport Complaints Report
14 Apr 2015	Quality account Psychological therapies update (update) Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (update) Workforce Skills mix
Additional T&F	22 nd October – Blue light response workshop One off workshop event with representatives from the Fire Service, Ambulance Service, Pennine Care Foundation Trust and the Police and Crime Commissioner.