

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Health Select Commission – 03 February 2022

Report Title

Work Programme Update

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

Katherine Harclerode, Governance Advisor
01709 254532 or katherine.harclerode@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

To outline an updated work programme for Health Select Commission.

Recommendations

1. That the updated work programme be noted.
2. That the Governance Advisor be authorised to make changes to the work programme in consultation with the Chair/Vice Chair, with any changes to be reported back at the next meeting for endorsement.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Work Programme – Health Select Commission

Background Papers

Agendas of Health Select Commission during the 2020/21 Municipal Year
Minutes of Health Select Commission during 2020/21 Municipal Year
Initial Work Programme Draft – 10 June 2021, Health Select Commission
Revised Work Programme – 8 July 2021, Health Select Commission

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Not applicable

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Updated Work Programme

1. Background

- 1.1 Overall performance of health partners is scrutinised through their quality reports, incorporating a range of national measures together with a number of locally agreed quality priorities. Adult Care and Public Health both have outcome frameworks of performance measures which enable progress to be gauged year on year and also benchmarked nationally and regionally.
- 1.2 Addressing health inequalities that exist in the borough, through health and social care strategies and plans, and through looking at the wider determinants of health should be an overarching principle.
- 1.3 The Health and social care services continue to undergo transformation and move towards more integrated working through joint commissioning, joint posts, locality working, greater co-location and multi-disciplinary teams. This work has been an important long-term programme that the Health Select Commission (HSC) has kept under scrutiny since 2015-16 and is still evolving. The recent publication of the Government's White Paper will bring changes in health care systems that will remain a focus and which will have evolving implications for how health scrutiny is conducted in the future.
- 1.4 Another continuing piece of work is scrutiny of any major changes to NHS services across South Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, undertaken by the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in accordance with the terms of reference for the HSC in the Council Constitution.
- 1.5 The way in which the Commission discharges its scrutiny activity is a matter for itself, having regard to the provisions of the Constitution and any direction from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. The IPSC has chosen to scrutinise a range of issues through a combination of pre-decision scrutiny items, policy development, performance monitoring, information updates and follow up to previous scrutiny work.
- 1.6 Health Select Commission has eight scheduled meetings over the course of 2021/22, representing a maximum of 16 hours of scrutiny per year – assuming approximately 2 hours per meeting. Members therefore have to be selective in their choice of items for the work programme. The following key principles of effective scrutiny have been considered in determining the work programme:
 - Selection – There is a need to prioritise so that high priority issues are scrutinised given the limited number of scheduled meetings and time available. Members should consider what can realistically and properly be reviewed at each meeting, taking into account the time needed to scrutinise each item and what the session is intended to achieve.
 - Value-added – Items had to have the potential to 'add value' to the work of the council and its partners.

- **Ambition** – the Programme does not shy away from scrutinising issues that are of greatest concern, whether or not they are the primary responsibility of the council. The Local Government Act 2000 gave local authorities the power to do anything to promote economic, social and environmental wellbeing of local communities. Subsequent Acts have conferred specific powers to scrutinise health services, crime and disorder issues and to hold partner organisations to account.
- **Flexibility** – The Work Programme maintains a degree of flexibility as required to respond to unforeseen issues/items for consideration during the year and to accommodate any further work that falls within the remit of this Commission.
- **Timing** – The Programme has been designed to ensure that the scrutiny activity is timely and that, where appropriate, its findings and recommendations inform wider corporate developments or policy development cycles at a time when they can have most impact. The Work Programme also helps safeguard against duplication of work undertaken elsewhere.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Members are required to review their work programme at each meeting during the 2021/22 municipal year to give focus and structure to scrutiny activity to ensure that it effectively and efficiently supports and challenges the decision-making processes of the Council, and partner organisations, for the benefit of the people of the borough.
- 2.2 Following the discussion at Health Select Commission on 10 June 2021, a revised draft work programme for 2021/22 was developed and presented at the 8 July 2021 meeting for endorsement. In keeping with the priorities of the Council and those expressed by Commission Members, this work programme reflects continued prioritisation of mental health, care and health system changes, and accessibility of services.
- 2.3 The autumn update on health and care system changes has been deferred to the winter/early spring as a result of expected duplication with Member development session scheduled in September. This is an area in which HSC will work closely with partner organisations such as TRFT as April 2022.
- 2.4 TRFT has requested consideration of several matters where scrutiny could add value to the work currently being undertaken by the Trust, including strengthening community services and social value. These items will be added to the work programme forward plan as appropriate. A site visit will also be considered.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 Members are recommended to agree priorities for the 2021-22 municipal year and contribute suggestions for the work programme.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 The work programme is subject to consultation with the Chair and Members of the Health Select Commission. Regular discussions take place with Cabinet Member, partner organisations, and officers in respect of the content and timeliness of items set out on the work programme.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The decision to develop and endorse a work programme is a matter reserved to the Commission and will be effective immediately after consideration of this report.
- 5.2 The Statutory Scrutiny Officer (Head of Democratic Services) is accountable for the implementation of any decision in respect of the Commission's work programme. The Governance Advisor supporting the Commission is responsible on a day-to-day basis for the Commission's work programme. Members are recommended to delegate authority to the Governance Advisor to make amendments to the programme between meetings.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial or procurement implications arising from this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.
- 7.2 The authority of the Select Commission to determine its work programme is detailed within the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules and Responsibility for Functions parts of the Constitution. The proposal to review the work programme is consistent with those provisions.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 There are no implications for children and young people or vulnerable adults arising from this report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 Whilst there are no specific equalities implications arising from this report, equalities and diversity are key considerations when developing and reviewing scrutiny work programmes. One of the key principles of scrutiny is to provide a voice for communities, and the work programme for this Commission has been prepared following feedback from Members representing those communities.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 There are no implications for CO2 emissions or climate change arising from this report.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 The Commission has a co-opted Member from Rotherham Speak Up who contributes to the development and review of the work programme. Where other matters are being considered for inclusion on the work programme, relevant partners or external organisations are consulted on the proposed activity and its timeliness.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 There are no risks arising from this report.

14. Accountable Officer(s)

Emma Hill, Acting Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer

*Report Author: Katherine Harclerode, Governance Advisor
01709 254532 or katherine.harclerode@rotherham.gov.uk*

This report is published on the Council's [website](#).