

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE  
24th September, 2010

Present:- Councillor Whelbourn (in the Chair); Councillors Austen, Gilding, J. Hamilton, Jack, License, G. A. Russell and Whysall.

Apologies for absence were received from The Mayor (Councillor McNeely); Councillors P. A. Russell, Steele and Swift.

**D54. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

**D55. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS.**

There were no questions from members of the public or the press.

**D56. EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE: LIBERATING THE NHS - WHITE PAPER AND RESPONDING TO THE CONSULTATION**

Kate Taylor, Policy Officer, presented the submitted report which set out how the Government's Health White Paper preceded legislation to be placed before Parliament in the current parliamentary session. It proposed major reforms to the NHS and also changed roles for Local Government.

A suite of consultation documents had subsequently been published, which required a response by 11th October, 2010. This report set out the key proposals within the White Paper and the implications these would have for the Council and Partners, as well as making recommendations for responding effectively to the consultation and next steps for public health in Rotherham.

The report set out clearly:-

- The Key Proposals.
- Implications for Rotherham.
- Consultation Process.
- Local Democratic Legitimacy in Health.
- Commissioning for Patients.
- Transparency in Outcomes – A Framework for the NHS.
- Regulating Healthcare Providers.
- Responding to the Consultation.
- Rotherham Joint Public Health Strategy.

A ring-fenced health improvement budget, which included a bonus for outcomes, would be provided to all Directors of Public Health.

Further detail regarding the amount of this budget and how it would be ring-fenced was not yet known. It was expected that the Public Health White paper, out in the autumn, would provide more information.

Implementation of some White Paper proposals could be influenced by the Spending Review expected from the Treasury in October, 2010 and the Localism and Decentralisation Bill expected from CLG in December, 2010. For example, what the Bill said about the governance arrangements for Councils and what the Review said about placed-based budgets.

There was also uncertainty with regards to the proposals in relation to the new health improvement roles and responsibilities for local authorities; including details of the ring-fenced budget and Director of Public Health and staff. Further clarity on such proposals would be provided by the publication of the Public Health White Paper due in autumn.

The Council needed to consider all proposals and implications of this and future health related White Papers to ensure it was fully equipped to take on the new role. The risk of not looking at this immediately could be ineffective partnership and integrated working with the new arrangements and, therefore, poor outcomes for services.

The report had been received by Cabinet at its meeting on 8th September, 2010.

Discussion and a question and answer session ensued and the following issues were covered:-

- scrutiny arrangements : concerns executive scrutinising itself
- children and safeguarding issues
- Health and Wellbeing Board establishment and representation
- monitoring of target waiting days
- implications of cross boundary issues
- appropriate reporting line for consultation papers

Resolved:- (1) That the information be noted.

(2) That a working group of this Committee meet on Tuesday, 28th September, 2010, to consider the consultation paper questions in detail and feed into the formal consultation response.

(3) That Cabinet be requested to consider the appropriate route for consideration of consultation papers and this Committee's view that scrutiny should be the first port of call.

**D57. 11 MILLION TAKEOVER DAY**

Caroline Webb, Senior Scrutiny Adviser, presented the submitted report indicating that "11 Million Takeover Day 2010" was to be held on Friday, 12th November, 2010.

The Committee noted the success of the event in previous years and welcomed the opportunity to participate again in 2010.

Resolved:- (1) That "11 Million Takeover Day 2010" be supported.

(2) That the Youth Cabinet and Looked After Children's Council be invited to take over this Committee's meeting on 12th November, 2010 (re-scheduled from 19th November, 2010).

(3) That members of the Cabinet be invited to attend the event.

(4) That further reports be submitted as appropriate.

**D58. POLICE REFORM CONSULTATION : FEEDBACK**

Further to Minute No. 53 of the meeting of this Committee held on 10th September, 2010, it was reported that the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel considered the draft consultation response on 16th September, 2010. Taking account of the comments made by the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel, Councillor Akhtar, Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods considered the matter at his delegated powers meeting on 20th September, 2010. The response was approved with the first part of the consultation draft being amended to read "Rotherham Borough Council are opposed to the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners".

Resolved:- That the information be noted.

**D59. MINUTES**

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 10th September, 2010 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

**D60. WORK IN PROGRESS**

(a) Councillor J. Hamilton reported that the latest meeting of the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel had considered:-

- presentation from Councillor Akhtar, Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods, on his priorities under the Safe Theme Board
- policing in the 21st Century
- Community Leadership Fund
- combined parliamentary and local elections May, 2010
- Rotherham election turnout analysis

The next meeting would be considering running a referendum at the same time as an election.

(b) Councillor Jack reported that the Assistive Technology Review was nearing completion.

(c) Councillor Whysall reported that the next meeting of the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel to be held on 6th October, 2010 at MAGNA was an economic regeneration themed meeting to which members were invited to attend.

(d) Councillor G. A. Russell reported

- scrutiny review group looking at incidences of autism was being set up
- review of the temporary closure of Rotherham schools during periods of inclement weather would be reported to the next meeting of the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel in October
- an invitation had been received to participate in the Health consultation on children's cardiac services
- the October meeting of the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel would also be considering Building Schools for the Future

(e) Caroline Webb, Senior Scrutiny Adviser, reported - on behalf of the Mayor (Councillor McNeely), that the review group looking at the housing private renting sector had been set up and the first meeting was scheduled for 1st October, 2010

- the latest meeting of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel had considered proposals around the future shape of social housing

(f) Caroline Webb, Senior Scrutiny Adviser, reported an invite from the Centre for Public Scrutiny to be part of a reference group looking at corporate parenting. A productive meeting had been held last week.

(g) Councillor Whelbourn reported:

- Cabinet had welcomed the breastfeeding review and recommendations would be implemented finance permitting
- Financial Services were carrying out a review of central establishment charges

Resolved:- That the potential to feed into the review be discussed further at the next meeting.

**D61. CALL-IN ISSUES**

There were no formal call-in requests.

**D62. BEN KNIGHT**

The Committee placed on record its thanks to Ben for his services to the Committee and scrutiny and wished him every success in his new appointment at Warrington.