

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15 JUNE 2021

WORK PROGRAMME

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Summary

This report advises Members of the current work programme for discussion in the light of latest priorities, issues and circumstances, giving Members the opportunity to shape and direct the Committee's activities.

1. Budget and policy framework
 - 1.1 Under Chapter 4 – Rules, Part 4 paragraph 21.1 (xv) General Terms of Reference, each overview and scrutiny committee has the responsibility for setting its own work programme.
2. Background
 - 2.1 Appendix 1 to this report sets out the Committee's work programme.
3. Agenda planning meeting
 - 3.1 Members will be aware that Overview and Scrutiny Committees hold agenda planning meetings on a regular basis. An agenda planning meeting was held on 12 May attended by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Opposition Spokesperson.
 - 3.2 Shortly after the agenda planning meeting, there was a request for the update from Medway Community Healthcare to go to the August meeting instead of to this meeting. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Opposition Spokesperson were consulted and had no objections to this.

4. Forward Plan

- 4.1 The latest Forward Plan of forthcoming Cabinet decisions was published on 28 May 2021. On this occasion there is only one item which relates to this Committee (the Adult Social Care Strategy) and this is on the agenda for this meeting.

<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=402&T=4>

5. Quality Accounts

- 5.1 Quality Accounts are annual reports to the public from providers of NHS healthcare services about the quality of services they provide. All providers of NHS healthcare services in England, whether they are NHS bodies, private or third sector organisations must publish an annual Quality Account.
- 5.2 Health Scrutiny Committees are given the opportunity to comment on a provider's Quality Account before it is published due to their role in the scrutiny of local health services. Scrutiny is seen as ideally placed to ensure that a provider's Quality Account reflects the local priorities and concerns voiced by their constituents and is a fair reflection of the healthcare services provided.
- 5.3 Ideally responses to Quality Accounts would come to the Committee for approval but in practice the timescales in which a response is required makes this very difficult. Therefore, the Committee has delegated to the Director of People the authority to agree a response following consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Opposition Spokesperson.
- 5.4 Two draft Quality Accounts from providers have been received recently: South East Coast Ambulance Trust and the Medway NHS Foundation Trust. Responses will be sent to both Trusts as outlined above.

6. Briefings

- 6.1 At the last meeting Members asked for briefing paper on the following issues:
- GP numbers across Medway, including the numbers of other primary care practitioners.
 - proposals for the Blue Suite in Rainham, including the processes involved in any proposed closure and also the use of the Rainham Health Living Centre (this was for local councillors in advance of a meeting with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Minster Medical Group and followed a petition presented to the Committee).
 - the development of a Kent and Medway GP estate strategy and also the CCG's plans to encourage the creation of GP training practices.
- 6.2 All of these briefings have been sent to Members and have been published on the Council's website.

[https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/download/56/overview_and_scrutiny_briefing_notes - health and adult social care](https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/download/56/overview_and_scrutiny_briefing_notes_-_health_and_adult_social_care)

7. Work Programme

- 7.1 The Committee's work programme is attached at Appendix 1.
- 7.2 At the last meeting Members considered a paper from Medway Healthwatch which looked at the experiences of nursing and residential care homes during the first stages of the Covid-19 pandemic. Members requested an update on progress in implementing the report's recommendations. Since the meeting, Medway Healthwatch have clarified that Healthwatch will re-visit care homes once they are able to see what, if any, recommendations have been implemented and that care in the community will be a focus this year.

8. Financial and legal implications

- 8.1 There are no specific financial or legal implications arising from this report.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 The Committee is requested to agree that the update from Medway Community Healthcare is submitted to the August meeting.

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Appendices

Appendix 1 - Work Programme

Background papers

None.