

Status Report to Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Commission - September 2019

Adult Social Care, Health and Housing (ASCHH) O&S Panel

Situation (where we are now)

- A meeting was held with Tina Stevenson (Chief Executive Officer) and Geoff Smith (Chair of Trustees) of Bracknell Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), to establish current overlaps between issues raised at CAB and services provided by Bracknell Forest Council, whereby it was agreed to include CAB in discussions, where relevant.
- Public engagement with the scrutiny process was undertaken with a good / high degree of success, as evidenced by an article in the local newspaper (Bracknell News) and feedback from those taking part in the workshop, at the end of the last Panel meeting, which included Officers and members of the public.
- A detailed set of prioritised recommendations arose from the workshop, for the Commission to consider, although the primary areas of concern remain the Integrated Care System (ICS) and the Bracknell Forest Housing Strategy. Within these two primary themes were enough topic areas for scrutiny, over the current period of administration, from 2019 to 2023, at least (see Amalgamated Topics Selection List).
- An update was received at the last ASCHH Panel meeting on 05 September, in relation to the ASCHH Transformation Programme out turn and with the single exception of the necessary permits, from the Environment Agency, in relation to the doorstep collection of sharps bins (previously reported), there are no open working groups, no further work has been commissioned and the work programme for the Panel is completed (see the Actions Log from ASCH&H O&S Panel Minutes).
- The Annual Healthwatch report was also circulated direct to Panel members, on 23 July and more widely, via Democracy Snapshot, to all elected Members
- Following a request from the O&S Commission, all meetings have maintained a single issue focus and the Panel is now awaiting the outcome of the forthcoming review of 'statutory' guidance (i.e. CMT / Executive meetings and O&S discussions on 24 September) and for any changes to scrutiny to take effect.

Objectives (where we want to be)

Panel members are ready to be fully integrated into the revised O&S protocols, to ensure they are engaged and competent to fulfil the scrutiny function required and accordingly, we now wish to:

- Incorporate the anticipated theme-based scrutiny approach into a new work programme, to ensure that each activity impacts positively on the Council Plan and has measurable outcomes.
- Continue to increase public engagement and involvement in the scrutiny process during the current administration.
- Focus on the key 'topic' areas of change in the Borough that will impact on residents' lives and scrutinise those key areas.
- Improve the efficiency of overview, which will enable the panel to focus its efforts on actual scrutiny at meetings, by conducting as much overview as possible in advance of these meetings using email, briefing documents and evidence packs, as well as other channels, such as Democracy Snapshot and the forthcoming QSR dashboard.
- Plan meeting dates that fit and respond to the business need of the Panel, rather than fitting the business needs of the Panel into the (pre-set) meeting dates.

Strategy (how we plan to get there)

Once the new O&S work protocols have been agreed, work will be needed to 'put flesh on the bones' of the two key lines of enquiry for scrutiny that have previously been identified, as follows:

- The Integrated Care System (ICS) and Primary Care Network (PCN) arrangements
- The Bracknell Forest Housing Strategy Development

However, it is understood and appreciated that the People Directorate are not, currently, in a position to undertake this task. Once the O&S review has concluded, it may then be possible to include the topic selection list (see above) into the work programme, subject to integration with the updated / revised Council Plan.

Tactics (what we are doing to get there)

- Councillors Tullett and Mrs Mattick will continue to routinely meet with the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and the Director and Assistant Directors within the People Directorate, as and when necessary, to understand their current focus and work priorities and to inform and contribute to the current Panel's area of O&S responsibility, unless and until directed otherwise, by the O&S Commission.
- The Agenda setting meeting for the next planned ASCHH Panel meeting has been cancelled, in order to ascertain the updated / revised O&S protocols (e.g. enquiry review groups) and work programme.
- Councillors Tullett and Mrs Mattick will attend the O&S Commission scrutiny review workshop on 24 September, before determining the next steps.