



TRAFFORD
COUNCIL

Overview and Scrutiny
Annual Impact Report
2012/13

Chairmen and Vice Chairman's Introduction

This year has proved to be another successful one for Overview and Scrutiny, which is especially pleasing considering it is our first full year under the new format. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Scrutiny Committee Members, with special consideration to Topic Group Chairmen, for their efforts and dedication to scrutiny. The reviews undertaken in relation to doorstep crime and community asset framework have added a valuable contribution to improving the services delivered by the Council and partners.

During the period under review the Health Scrutiny Committee has been heavily involved in the scrutiny of the New Health Deal proposals for Trafford, an aspect of which was the downgrading of the A&E Department at Trafford General Hospital. Inevitably this aspect of the proposals attracted considerable public interest not only in the NHS proposals but the role and work of the Health Scrutiny Committee. Members of the Committee fully participated in the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee established with the City of Manchester. Following concerns about the NHS New Health Deal for Trafford a referral to the Secretary of State for Health was made.

The two topic groups established under the new arrangements have been working on two very important issues relating to health and social care in Trafford: dignity of older residents in the care of NHS hospitals and personalisation of care in the community. Both these topics are reported upon more fully elsewhere in this report.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Democratic Services team, Council Officers and partners for their continued hard work, which without we would not have achieved what is set out within this Annual Impact Report.



Councillors Brian Shaw and Mike Cordingley & Councillors Judith Lloyd and John Lamb

Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the Scrutiny & Health Scrutiny Committees

Statutory Scrutiny Officer Introduction

I'm pleased to fully support the comments made by the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the Scrutiny and Health Scrutiny Committees as well as those made by the Topic Group Chairmen. In my first year as Statutory Scrutiny Officer, I've witnessed a positive difference to the ways in which scrutiny operates at Trafford and that outcomes are at the heart of what Members wish to achieve. Scrutiny Members' work programme was challenging in parts and included some excellent examples of pre-scrutiny such as the development of proposals to establish the local scheme for Council Tax, Trafford Assist (Local Welfare Assistance Scheme) and the Community Asset Framework.

I very much look forward to working with Members and Officers in the coming years to further enhance the impact that the function has on the Council and its partners.



Peter Molyneux

Trafford Council
Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2012/13

Introduction

Overview and Scrutiny exists to assist in the improvement of governance and public services. It ensures the Council's Executive and partners are publicly held to account for their decisions and actions, and to promote open and transparent decision-making and democratic accountability. It also has a wide remit to explore how the Council and its partner organisations could improve services for the people of Trafford by:

1. Reviewing existing policy and contributing to the development of new policy.
2. Acting as a 'critical friend' to those making decisions.
3. Holding decision-makers to account for their decisions and actions.
4. Challenging performance to ensure that services are meeting the needs of local communities.

This annual report looks at how the Overview and Scrutiny function performed its role in 2012-13 and provides a snapshot of the contribution it has made.

Review of Scrutiny

In 2012/13, and following a review led by the former Overview and Scrutiny Core Committee, the Council changed the structure of Scrutiny. The principal change was that standing overview and scrutiny committees with broad remits were discontinued in favour of more outcome focussed topic groups with varying size and membership. The new structure for Overview and Scrutiny comprises:-

1. A Scrutiny Committee to determine and co-ordinate a prioritised work programme and to carry out scrutiny of key strategic issues.
2. A Health Scrutiny Committee to determine and co-ordinate a prioritised work programme focussing solely on key health and social care issues.
3. Four Topic Groups to undertake focussed reviews agreed by the Scrutiny and Health Scrutiny Committees in order to support the delivery of the overall Scrutiny work programmes. The Topic Groups are self-selecting and the membership changes depending on Members' preferences for participating in a specific project.

These radical changes have taken time to embed in terms of how Members and Officers engage with Overview and Scrutiny, and also within the wider democratic framework of the Council.

To be successful, Overview and Scrutiny needs active participation, not only from Scrutiny councillors, but also the input of many others – Executive Councillors, officers, representatives of external organisations, the voluntary sector, interest groups and individual citizens. In 2012/13, we involved a number of participants from these groups and we are very grateful for their input and time.

Key Activities of Scrutiny Committee

Membership 2012/13



Welfare Reform – As a result of the significant national changes to welfare provision, the Executive Member for Finance asked Scrutiny Committee to review the Executive’s approach to a localised scheme of administering Council Tax Benefit. After a series of meetings Scrutiny Members provided a number of comments and issues for the Executive Member to consider which enhanced the final report which was taken to the Executive. The process also enabled Scrutiny Members to have an overview of the scheme’s development and subsequent public consultation.

Executive’s Response to the Review of Domestic Violence – Following the review undertaken by the former Community Wellbeing Select Committee, the response to the review was presented to Scrutiny Members for their consideration. Members welcomed the progress made but were concerned that some of the recommendations which focussed on prevention, early intervention and funding were not agreed. The Committee has agreed to follow these up in due course. A further recommendation was made in respect of a co-ordinating Executive Member for Domestic Violence issues which was agreed by the Executive.

Trafford Assist - The Executive Member for Community Health and Wellbeing provided Scrutiny Committee with a report detailing the establishment of Trafford Assist. Scrutiny Members provided ‘critical friend’ challenge to the Executive Member and requested that a risk assessment be put in place prior to the Executive deciding on the matter.

Children's Centres Call In – The Executive's decision to reconfigure the provision of services and number of children's centres across the Borough was called-in in March this year. After a detailed discussion, the Committee felt decided that it was not necessary to refer the matter back to the Executive.

Budget Scrutiny – Following the redesign of the overall approach to budget scrutiny, Scrutiny Members, the Executive and Corporate Management Team felt that the process was more focussed and meaningful than in previous years. As a result of this process, Members have agreed to follow up a number of key recommendations such as the impact of business rates retention, changes to waste management and the review of Human Resources. These will be followed up through the year.

Town Centres – Scrutiny Members received a comprehensive report from the Executive Member for Economic Growth and Prosperity on activity, both past and planned, in relation to the economic development of the Borough's town centres. After careful consideration, Scrutiny Members noted that they that they wished to see a bigger focus on supporting town centre partnerships, enhanced town centre master-planning and that further consideration be given to the development of a method or mechanisms to objectively assess the success of interventions. The Committee will be receiving an update on progress later this year.

Key Activities of Health Scrutiny Committee

Membership 2012/13



North West Ambulance Service – The suggested closure of Stretford Ambulance Station caused community concern in Spring 2012 and Members met to discuss the implications of the decision with the Ambulance Trust. At this meeting, Members assured themselves that performance would not be adversely affected by the decision and that the sale of land would release savings for the Trust.

New Health Deal for Trafford – The acquisition of Trafford Healthcare Trust and the subsequent proposal to transform services was a significant piece of work for Members of the Committee over the entire year. Members were involved at every stage of the process and provided comments to NHS Greater Manchester on a number of occasions. Once formal consultation had commenced, both Manchester and Trafford Councils established a Joint Committee for the commissioner to consult with and, as agreement was not reached, the matter was referred to the Secretary of State for Health in February 2013. At the time of writing, the Joint Committee still awaits a response.

Executive's Response to the Ageing Well Review – Following the review undertaken by the former Health and Wellbeing Select Committee, Members monitored the recommendations to ensure that those which were accepted by the Executive were being progressed.

Executive's Response to Review of Dentistry in Care and Residential Homes – A short piece of independent scrutiny was undertaken by Councillor Dr Karen Barclay, former Member of the Health and Wellbeing Select Committee, following concerns from residents in relation to

the absence of a prompt dental service for those in care and residential homes. Members reviewed the actions arising from the recommendations and are keen to keep a close eye on the commissioning of the new service by NHS England.

Health and Wellbeing Board Update - Members welcomed the progress made by the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board in its first year and questioned the Executive Member for Community Health and Wellbeing and the Director of Public Health on the transfer of public health duties. The work of the Board will form a key part in the Committee's work programme for next and future years.

Francis Report – Arising from the comprehensive review of the failings of the Mid Staffordshire NHS Trust to ensure patient care and safety, Members received a brief report on the impact of the review on Overview and Scrutiny. Members were very keen to ensure that the scrutiny function was able to discharge its duties effectively and, in the spirit of the review's outcome, Members requested a future report on the ways in which the Health Scrutiny Committee should look to improve.

Health Scrutiny Engagement Event – The Committee along with Trafford Clinical Commissioning Group, hosted an information and engagement event in April 2013 involving the Health and Wellbeing Board, Healthwatch, Care Quality Commission, NHS England and Council Commissioners. This collaborative event brought together partners in order to share an understanding of each other's unique roles in the new health landscape. The event also provided an enhanced basis of future working relationships.

Work of The Topic Groups

Topic Group A: Review of Doorstep Crime



Topic Group A's review during the municipal year 2012/13 involved an in-depth review of the issue of doorstep crime within the Borough, and the multi-agency approach to tackling the problem. After meeting with Council Departments, the Police, voluntary groups and victims of doorstep crime, we were able to put forward a number of recommendations aimed at sharpening our response to this growing problem, and ensuring that more vulnerable residents feel as supported as possible.

The Topic Group's report was presented formally to the Executive on 24 June 2013 and a response is awaited.

Councillor Rob Chilton, Chairman of Topic Group A

Topic Group B: Review of Community Asset Framework



The major work of Scrutiny topic group B has centred on scrutinising Economic Growth and Prosperity's development of a Community Asset Framework. This included a detailed study of the Asset Management approach to Community lettings, Community Right to Bid & Community Asset Transfer. This review allowed for Scrutiny to examine a wide range of issues across all aspects of the management of our let estate.

We were delighted that the Executive Member and his Corporate Director valued our input, and took measures to include our comments and address our concerns in their report to Executive on 24th June 2013.

Whilst Topic Group B view our involvement in this review as "work in progress", we feel confident that by working with the EGP Directorate, the best outcome for both Trafford Council and our user groups are within reach.

Councillor John Reilly, Chairman of Topic Group B

Topic Group C: Care of Elderly Trafford Residents in NHS Hospitals



As part of the Health Scrutiny work programme, Topic Group C focussed on 'Care of Elderly Trafford Residents in NHS Hospitals' i.e Dignity in Care agenda. It was linked to the corporate priority of positive Health and Wellbeing. Members were explicit that this piece of work should be undertaken with no limitations on when it should report to the Executive owing to timescales for planned visits. The first stage of the review took place during 2012/13 with a review of Hospital practices for discharge, medication/pain relief, nutrition and hydration, hospital associated infections, nursing quality and complaints procedures with a visit to Wythenshawe Hospital. Evidence was also taken from a sample of in-patients.

Stage 2 of the review which will progress through 2013/14 features two visits to Trafford General Hospital and Salford Royal Hospital. To understand the views of residents, Topic Group Members have invited and received evidence from citizens on the quality of their care at the three hospitals which are the focus of this piece of work. The combined final report will make recommendations to NHS Trusts which will be shared with the Executive on compliance with dignity practices. My thanks to all the members of Topic group C and the assigned officer for their extensive input during Stage 1.

Councillor Dylan Butt, Chairman of Topic Group C

Topic Group D: Review of Personalisation



The Topic Group has been tasked to look at the implementation of Personalised Budgets as they affect social care within the borough.

Members of the Topic Group have visited LMCP Care Link, Trafford Centre for Independent Living and Away Days in order to speak with service users and providers in order to understand their experience of the personalisation process.

The next stage of the review is to visit a home care service and, amongst other issues, to explore the process of applying for Personal Budget. A final look at the way individuals experience the use of their budgets in various care environments is under way and a first report is expected in August.

CLlr John Holden, Chairman of Topic Group D