

Report of the City Solicitor to the meeting of the Health and Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee to be held on 26 January 2021

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Subject: Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2020/21

Summary statement:

This report presents the work programme 2020/21

Portfolio:

Health People and Places

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1. Summary

1.1 This report presents the work programme 2020/2.

2. Background

2.1 Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee is required by the Constitution of the Council to prepare a work programme (Part 3E – Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, Para 1.1).

2.2 On 7 May 2019 the Government published ‘Overview and scrutiny statutory guidance for councils and combined authorities’¹. This, along with guidance produced by the Centre for Public Scrutiny during the Covid-19 pandemic in May 2020², emphasises the need for the Scrutiny function to prioritise, and at the current time, to consider a narrower programme of work focussing on ‘critical business’ issues. This approach has been supported by Gold Command as part of the Council’s emergency response arrangements.

3. Report issues

3.1 This report presents the work programme 2020/1. **Appendix 1** shows items have been scheduled through to March 2021. In line with the guidance at Para 2.2 it has been agreed by the Committee at its meeting of 21 July 2020 that the work programme should be reviewed and updated on a rolling three-month basis. This will allow the Committee to respond in a timely and flexible way to the evolving Covid-19 pandemic, the impact on the District’s residents and on health and social care provision.

3.2 The statutory powers of the Committee to review and scrutinise any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of local health services are unchanged, as are the duties placed on NHS bodies to consult the Committee on any proposed substantial developments or variations in the provision of health services.

4. Options

4.1 Members may wish to amend and / or comment on the work programme at **Appendix 1**.

5. Contribution to corporate priorities

5.1 In addition to the position set out in Paras 2.2 and 3.1, the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2020/21 reflects the ambition of the District Plan for ‘all of our population to be healthy, well and able to live independently for as long as possible’ (District Plan: Better health, better lives). It also reflects the guiding principals of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Bradford and Airedale ‘Connecting people and place for better health and wellbeing’.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overview-and-scrutiny-statutory-guidance-for-councils-and-combined-authorities>

² <https://www.cfps.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020-06-19-covid-guide-2-scrutiny-2nd-edn.pdf>

6. **Recommendations**

6.1 That the Committee comments on the information in **Appendix 1**

6.2 That the Work Programme 2020/21 continues to be regularly reviewed and updated on a rolling three-month basis up to March 2021.

7. **Background documents**

None

8. **Not for publication documents**

None

9. **Appendices**

9.1 **Appendix 1** – Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme 2020/21