

Items for inclusion on the 2017/18 scrutiny work programme – the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels

During June and July, Overview and Scrutiny Panels have been asked to consider what items they would wish to include on the 2017/18 Scrutiny Work Programme, using the updated 2016/17 work programme as a starting point. The following includes responses to date.

All Panels will also have 'Standing items' to consider such as Performance Management, Budget Scrutiny and Safeguarding (Adults and Children's).

Adult Care and Well-Being O&S Panel

Panel members made the following suggestions:

- Three Conversation model (new model for social work)
- Outcome-based Commissioning – homecare and care providers
- Staffing – sickness, recruitment, retention and agency spend
- Isolation
- Prevention work and its success in keeping people independent – possible task group
- Technology in care?

Children and Families O&S Panel

Panel Members wished the main focus of the Panel's work to remain on the follow up to the Ofsted report and the implementation of the Service Improvement Plan, and have agreed that this should be a standing item on all future agendas. An additional meeting has been arranged for 14 August to include an initial discussion on this issue. In this context, Panel Members have highlighted the following particular concerns:

- The workload of social workers; and
- The need to consider comparative figures in relation to performance of agency staff, recruitment and retention, and caseloads.

Members also wished to include the following items on the 2017/18 work programme:

- Child employment and labour
- Education at home
- 0-19 service (Children's Centres)
- Alternative provision
- The performance of Babcock Prime (with a particular focus on performance at KS2)

Corporate and Communities O&S Panel

Members have suggested the following as items for the 2017/18 work programme:

- Worcestershire County Council Use of Property (Place Partnership)
- Worcestershire County Council Workforce – including cultural change to support transformation

- What can WCC do to maximise income generation?
- How can WCC support Local Business?
- Culture: How can we utilise the culture of Worcestershire to maximise the benefit to the County?
- Information sharing with District Councils.
- Councillor IT
- Road safety (particularly around schools)
- Commissioning – How do we manage and ensure value for money and quality service?
- Communications – How do we ensure residents have easy access and we communicate service levels? WCC brand.

Economy and Environment O&S Panel

The following issues have been suggested by Members of the Panel:

- Footways
- Cycle paths
- Highways development control – improving joined-up working (task group?)
- Worcestershire LEP
- How to improve getting around the county
- Local Transport Plan 4 – how plans are implemented
- Cleaning programme for gulleys and drains
- Asset management
- Transport and access to hospitals
- Buses (task group?)
- Evesham's Abbey Bridge – lessons learned
- Budget scrutiny (mini task group of panel members)
- Flood risk management
- Broadband update

Transitions

On 21 June a joint meeting of the Adult Care and Well-being O&S Panel and the Children and Families O&S Panel was held to discuss issues relating to the transition between Children's and Adult Services. Following the meeting, Members expressed an interest in setting up a scrutiny task group to investigate further. The Chairmen of both Panels have met with Officers to start the scoping process.