

OSPB Members' updates on Panels, Task Groups and other work

Adult Care and Well-being Overview and Scrutiny Panel

1. Safeguarding Adults Annual Report

Achievements of the Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB) during the year included a more active and engaged partnership, with good representation from the statutory agencies and beyond. There is now representation from those who have experienced safeguarding issues.

An update has been requested from Trading Standards about its work on adult exploitation. A guidance note has been requested to help members signpost queries from constituents about safeguarding issues. Overall, the Panel felt reassured by the latest update

2. Messages from Adult Services Roadshows

The roadshows appear to have been a very good way of getting out there and speaking to the public. The main objectives of the campaign were to promote Adult Services, dispel the myth that everybody is eligible for care but also to encourage people to think about ageing and how to prepare and make decisions which could help them stay independent for longer.

3. Work Plans

The Panel would like to understand more about continuing healthcare assessments – carers and panel members have reported concerns about assessments which now take place every 6 weeks and the stress this causes.

The Panel will decide about any further work areas once the Council's financial priorities from the new budget have been looked at.

Corporate and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel

1. Working with District Councils and other Partners to share information

The Panel received a report which provided an overview of how the Council currently shared information with District Councils and others to meet residents' needs. The Director explained that all Partners across Worcestershire had signed a Worcestershire Office of Data Analytics (WODA) Data Sharing Charter which set out principles for person related data sharing.

A number of responses were made by members which are detailed within the minutes.

Key elements for future work by panel on topic to be considered included.

- Council tax collection system
- Information Technology systems e.g. Office 365
- Customer Relations Relationship Management systems for Councillors
- Opportunities for business development
- A system of sharing Best Practice
- Income generation initiatives.

The Chairman agreed to discuss this issue with the Vice-Chairman and consider ways in which it could be taken forward. They would report back to the Panel with a suggested way ahead.

2. Registration Service Overview

In previous meetings Performance on Death and Still Birth registrations were showing consistent concern and a deep dive had been requested by the panel. Members raised a number of questions and related issues detailed fully in the minutes.

The Panel was pleased with the thorough response to the request for a 'deep dive', which had outlined the actions which had been taken to address the issue and additional actions being considered and looked forward to a resultant improved performance in their performance data. The Panel also benefitted from the general overview of the service which had proved to be very informative.

3. Work Plans - December Panel meeting to cover

Draft Libraries Strategy and Implementation
Corporate Complaints and Compliments system
Performance Monitoring Quarter 2 (July-September 2019)
Council's Energy providers and costs

Crime and Disorder

Following on from the annual meeting that the Council hosts relating to Crime and Disorder, the GET SAFE initiative (an initiative by West Mercia Police, Worcestershire's Children's Services and other partners) has been high on the agenda. Cllr Adam Kent put forward an excellent motion to Council based on his own experiences and calling for Councillors to spread awareness. I have been able to meet with the Chair of Worcestershire County Association of Local Councils (CALC) to discuss how we can lift the profile of GET SAFE further throughout the Town and Parish Councils of Worcestershire. The Chair of CALC was very supportive of this initiative.

The Rural Crime Strategy was launched at the West Mercia Police and Crime Panel which I attended as an observer. I have been very pleased to have several discussions with both the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and the DPCC about this. Rural crime has massive economic implications for the rural community and a robust and pragmatic response is required. I look forward to seeing some of the positive outcomes from this strategy as it is rolled out.

The PCC held a workshop on Sexual Assault on 4 November at Sixways Stadium which a number of Cabinet Members and Officers attended. Prior to this I met with Officers where we discussed sexual assault and potential areas for improvement. Child

protection strategies mean that the sexual assault of children is thoroughly and continually being analysed. How we tackle adult sexual assault is an area for improvement we would like to look at. By its very nature, adult sexual assault is extremely complex and hopefully the outcomes of the Sexual Assault workshop will help us in our quest for continuous improvement.