

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report

2017/18

Hold to account
Bus gates Improvement
Investigation *STP view*
Play Strategy
Forward
OFSTED
Referral
Proposals
Homelessness
Strategic
Services
Podiatry
Ward councillors
Edge of Care
Review
Resilience
Health
Prevention
Healthy Child
Flooding
Intervention
Citizens

Network Rail
Democracy Commission
Statutory Social Care
Housing **Briefings**
Inclusion
Looking forward
Mental health
Safeguarding
Crime **Children**
Wellness Engagement
Pre decision
Home Educated
Lessons learned
Ad Hoc Panel

Chair's Foreword

This year was the first with the new panel structure and it's been lovely to see so many more Members getting regularly involved with the work of Overview & Scrutiny. It seemed to be a steep learning curve in some areas, as local public services are going through so much change and face so many challenges, but I believe the team were up to the challenge, and all achieved positive outcomes. I'm confident that now the panels are more established, they will achieve even more in the next municipal year.

I'd like to say a big thank you to Councillor Liz Smaje who led the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee (Calderdale and Huddersfield) work. The whole committee put in a lot of time and dealt with the pressures very well, but as the lead member, it is even more intense and time consuming, and Councillor Smaje carried out this role with great professionalism.

This year we have webcast as many meetings as possible, in the hope that many more people can consider the debates, and develop a greater understanding of the challenges facing us all. Looking forward, we aim to develop our communications further; we will be expanding the bulletins we distribute 3 times a year, we will have a web presence again; we are re-establishing social media promotion; and we hope to bring more information to Council to share with all elected members.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Julie Stewart Turner".

Chair of Scrutiny 2017/18
Councillor Julie Stewart Turner

Thanks

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to Overview & Scrutiny in some way over the past year, particularly to our co-optees, who provide very valuable contributions to our work, and to the governance team that provide excellent support to all the panels.

Contents

	Page
Chair's foreword	2
2017/18 headlines	4
O&S Management Committee highlights	5
Health & Adult Social Care Panel highlights	6
Children's Panel highlights	8
Corporate Panel highlights	11
Economy and Neighbourhoods Panel highlights	13
Elective Home Education Ad-Hoc Panel	14
Joint Health Scrutiny Panels' highlights	15/16
Frequently asked questions	19
Team contact details	20

2017/ 2018 Headlines

Economy and Neighbourhoods Panel meets with Network Rail representatives to discuss transport links in Kirklees in the context of West Yorkshire and the wider region.

Children's Scrutiny Panel getting out and about visiting local children's home.

Joint Health Committee refers concerns to the Secretary of State for Health about the proposals for hospital services in Calderdale and Huddersfield

Care Quality Commission talks to scrutiny panel about the findings of care home inspections in local area.

Economy and Neighbourhoods Panel support the work of the voluntary sector and seeks assurances on the development of a "Rough Sleeper outreach initiative"

Scrutiny committee hears about the allocation of an increased resources in neighbourhood policing

Scrutiny gets an early look at proposals for a Kirklees citizens account

Scrutiny sets up dedicated panel to look at elective home education in Kirklees.

Scrutiny commends Kirklees service for piloting work with communities to get ahead of the flood risk.

OSMC Headlines

Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee

Councillor Julie Stewart-Turner (CHAIR)
Councillor Cahal Burke (LEAD MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S PORTFOLIO)
Councillor Gulfam Asif (LEAD MEMBER FOR CORPORATE PORTFOLIO)
Councillor Elizabeth Smaje (LEAD MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO)
Councillor Rob Walker (LEAD MEMBER FOR ECONOMY AND NEIGHBOURHOODS PORTFOLIO)

The management committee has responsibility for the overseeing the Scrutiny Work Programme including receiving updates from panel lead members on the progress of the panels. The committee also sets up single issue ad hoc scrutiny panels and this year a panel was established to look at elective home education in Kirklees.

Highlights of work carried out by the committee are:

Report on busgates decision making process – the report looked at whether the council had followed decision making processes in implementing the busgates in Huddersfield town centre. The findings fed into a wider piece of work looking at Huddersfield town centre.

Flood risk management – The committee looked at progress towards addressing the priority actions in the council's plan. The committee was particularly keen to see early work with communities to

proactively minimise flood risk. A pilot project is now underway in two council wards. The Committee also wanted to track progress on the WYCA funded natural flood management project.

Regional scrutiny - As well as receiving an update on regional issues, the committee heard from Councillor Robert Light, Chair of the Combined Authority Scrutiny Committee on the focus of scrutiny work in the Combined Authority.

Corporate performance - The committee started to look at proposals to change how corporate performance is monitored within the authority. The committee supported the proposed change in emphasis and a move away from monitoring performance in areas that the council could not influence. In 2018/19 the committee intends to continue to scrutinise the proposals as they develop and are implemented.

OSMC – Work Programme 2017/18

Ways of working 2018/19	Flood Risk Management - preparation for the flood season and progress against the action plan - learning from flooding season
Appointment and allocation of co-optees (including recruitment exercise in Autumn 2018)	
Approval and monitoring of panel work programmes	Crime and Disorder - Progress against partnership plan priorities - Kirklees Gangs Strategy
Establishment of ad hoc scrutiny panels – elective home education	Inclusion and Diversity Strategy and action plan
Revisions to corporate performance management	Scrutiny communication

Health & Adult Social Care Panel

Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel
<p>Councillor Elizabeth Smaje (LEAD MEMBER) Councillor Richard Eastwood Councillor Fazila Loonat Councillor Richard Smith Councillor Sheikh Ullah Councillor Habiban Zaman David Rigby (CO-OPTEE) Peter Bradshaw (CO-OPTEE) Sharron Taylor (CO-OPTEE)</p>

1. Adult Social Care Offer Consultation

As part of the council's Transformation Programme, adult social care is in the process of developing a transparent and consistent approach to meeting its statutory duties under the Care Act. This approach involves promoting independence and working with an individual's strengths, rather than their deficits, to support personalised outcomes.

In March 2018 the panel considered a report that provided an overview of the background and purpose of an adults care offer consultation. The report outlined the methodology and approach being taken, along with timescales.

The panel provided feedback and comments which included a number of suggested changes to the consultation questionnaire. The service took account of the panel's feedback and provided further information on the consultation and questionnaire.

The input from the panel resulted in a revised questionnaire being produced. The panel will be looking at the outcomes of the consultation.

2. Suicide Prevention

The House of Commons Health Committee has recommended to Government that health overview and scrutiny committees should be involved in ensuring effective implementation of local authorities' suicide prevention plans. This should be established as a key role of these committees. Effective local scrutiny of a local authority's suicide prevention plan should reduce or eliminate the need for intervention by the national implementation board.

The Panel wanted to ensure that the Kirklees Suicide Prevention Plan was robust and initially focussed on looking at the following areas; clarification of who had been involved in developing the plan; establishing what partnerships were involved in overseeing and implementing the plan; who had overall responsibility for monitoring the effectiveness of the plan; and what the expected outcomes were.

In February 2018 the panel identified a number of areas that it felt should be considered including; looking in more detail at the relationship between the West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health Care Partnership (WYHCP) Suicide Prevention Strategy and the Kirklees plan; reviewing the challenges of data sharing; looking more closely at the work being done with GPs; and looking at the overall finance available locally to support the council's work on suicide prevention.

The work on suicide prevention has been carried forward for inclusion in the panel's work programme for 2018/19.

3. Proposed changes to Podiatry Services in Kirklees.

This item was carried forward from 2016/17 to allow the panel to consider the outcomes from the public consultation on proposed changes.

At its meeting in November 2017 the panel considered the outcomes of the consultation and issued a number of recommendations, which included asking Locala to provide information on how the issues highlighted by the consultation would be addressed. The panel also requested to see the final report detailing the proposed changes before the decision was made.

At a further meeting held in March 2018 the panel considered the recommendations for changes to podiatry services in Kirklees. The panel made a number of comments and recommendations aimed at improving access for individuals who had mobility issues; ensuring that alternative provision was in place before any of the current service locations were removed; ensuring consideration was given to individuals who are housebound and meet the eligibility criteria; and providing clear alternative transport options.

The panel agreed to carry the issue forward to 2018/19 so members could maintain an overview of the implementation of the new service and assess its impact on local residents.

4. Wheelchair Services in Kirklees

Wheelchair services in Kirklees are provided by Opcare, one of the UK's largest prosthetic, orthotic and wheelchair service providers. This item was added to the work programme after the panel had been made aware of a number of issues relating

to the standard and quality of service being provided. A short initial fact-finding study was undertaken to assess the scale of the issues and the panel agreed that the work should include a focus on user experience.

A meeting took place in January 2018 to look at the standard and quality of the wheelchairs service in Kirklees. The Panel heard from representatives from Greater Huddersfield and North Kirklees CCGs and Healthwatch Kirklees, who presented local people's experience of using wheelchair services.

The panel agreed a number of actions and recommendations that included: a request to improve communication with service users; asking for a review of the waiting list system; asking for assurance that assessments were being correctly carried out; and requesting details on actions that would be taken to improve the experience of service users.

The panel plans to continue to look at wheelchair services during 2018/19.

Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel – Work Programme 2017/18	
Financial position of North Kirklees CCG and Greater Huddersfield CCG	All age disability and adult pathways
Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Plan (Sustainability and Transformation Plan) and Kirklees Joint Strategic Assessment (KJSA)	The Healthy Child Programme (0-19 services)
Healthwise Optimisation Programme	Integrated wellness model
Integration of health and social care	Robustness of Adult Social Care
CQC Inspections	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) – Adults
Mental Health Services – Transformation Programme	Quality of care in Kirklees
Care Closer to Home (CC2H)	Suicide prevention
Health and Wellbeing Board – Better Care Fund (BCF)	Changes to Podiatry Services – outcomes of consultation
Interim changes to hospital services	

Children's Panel Highlights

Children's Overview & Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Cahal Burke (LEAD MEMBER)
Councillor Donna Bellamy
Councillor Fazila Loonat
Councillor Paul Kane
Councillor Robert Light
Councillor Amanda Pinnock
Dale O'Neill (Co-Optee)
Fatima Khan-Shah (Co-Optee)

Following an initial meeting with the cabinet member's responsible for the children's portfolio and Steve Walker, Director of Children's Services to understand the cabinet priorities for the 2017/18 municipal year, the scrutiny work programme was developed to reflect the priorities highlighted by Children's Services. Throughout the year, the panel received updates on the following areas:

- Implementation of the improvement plan
- Corporate parenting
- School transport for mainstream and SEND children
- Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) and Prevent

- Elective home education
- Ofsted visit updates
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and the future inspection
- Statement of purpose for children's homes

The panel was keen to get out and about and hear from service users and staff and as part of this the panel visited the new drop in centre 'No.11' and Woodlands, a children's home in Lindley. The panel felt the visits were invaluable in giving them the opportunity to discuss issues raised by staff and speak to some young people at Woodlands.



Implementing the Ofsted Improvement Plan for Children's Services:

The scrutiny panel prioritised oversight of the implementation of the Children's Services Improvement Plan which has seen intensive leadership support from Leeds City Council ongoing until summer 2018, when it is anticipated a permanent arrangement for the leadership of Children's Services will be put in place. In addition there will be a new IT system, followed by ongoing support, advice and mentoring until summer 2019. This supports getting the outcomes right for children and young people but should also achieve reductions in costs over time.

Based on experience in Leeds and other local authorities, the scrutiny panel has noted that it will take two to three years to fully realise projected savings. Whilst improvements are being made, there is still significant work to be undertaken to attain the quality of Children's Services.

The panel focus in 2018/19 needs to be on the implementation of the leadership, IT and other changes that are necessary to move substantially forward in respect of the quality and cost of provision. The panel will receive regular updates on the Improvement plan and follow up on the agreed recommendations of the ad hoc scrutiny panel into Children's Services.

Corporate Parenting:

The panel has looked at aspects of corporate parenting across the year. In order to maintain a regular overview of the position in Kirklees it has asked for information to be provided at every meeting, outlining the number of children in care, where the placements are, particularly those placed out of the Kirklees area.



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Children's Panel Highlights continued

Focus for Next Year

The panel will continue to meet with officers relating to the SEND inspection and to consider more in-depth the following two areas:

- Parent's engagement with services and how well the services engage with parents
- Strengthening the Special Educational Needs Assessment and Commissioning Team (SENACT) team to include compliance officers to monitor the quality and consistency of Education and Health Care (EHC) plans.
- The panel will also visit Duty & Advice, a children's home and members of staff in the upcoming municipal year.

The panel will maintain a focus on the finances of the improvement journey in Kirklees to include:

- Reviewing the letters sent to the Director of Children's Services following each Ofsted Visit
- Considering the implementation of the improvement journey, and how this aligns with the recommendations of the children's ad-hoc scrutiny panel
- Considering the Sufficiency Strategy of local placements to ensure that children are not placed outside of the area

The Panel will consider the quarterly performance reports to include:-

- Child Protection and Family Support
- Early Help and Learning Service

Maintain an overview of the work done to improve the Edge of Care offer in Kirklees to include:

- Strategy for partnership working - early help
- Multisystemic Therapy
- Family Mental Health Service
- Family conferencing
- To seek the experiences of head teachers on a visit to the Head Teacher's Forum.

Children's Overview & Scrutiny Panel – Work Programme 2017/18

Improvement journey	Children and Young People's Plan
Elective home education	Visit to Duty & Advice
Special Educational Needs (to include school transport)	Front door policy
CSE and safeguarding	Staff engagement visit
Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board progress report	Edge of care

Corporate Panel Highlights

Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Gulfam Asif (LEAD MEMBER)
Councillor Carole Pattison
Councillor Hilary Richards
Councillor James Homewood
Councillor Mussarat Pervaiz
Councillor John Taylor
Philip Chaloner (CO-OPTEEE)
Linda Summers (CO-OPTEEE)

At the beginning of the year the panel met with cabinet members responsible for the corporate portfolio and Jacqui Gedman, Chief Executive to understand the portfolio priorities for the 2017/18 municipal year. The scrutiny work programme was developed to reflect the priorities covered by the following areas:

- Financial monitoring
- Democracy Commission
- IT system
- Asset Programme
- Transformation Programme
- Procurement
- Commissioning authority
- Access to services



The panel had a tour of the Customer Service Centre to look at the new scanning machines available for the public, along with an overview of the numerous other services offered within the centre. The Panel welcomed the success of the new scanning machines and noted that local authorities across the country were requesting visits to the centre to learn from the Kirklees approach. The panel also had the opportunity to look at the Citizen's Account prior to launch and comment on the approach.



Corporate Panel Highlights continued

In relation to the Transformation Programme, the panel considered an initial update on the progress of the programme in December 2017. They focussed in on three main strands of work; improving data visibility; developing future ways of working and; delivering procurement savings in specific spend categories. In looking at corporate procurement proposals the panel agreed that it was important that the council learned from the past and took time to implement a sustainable and appropriate system. The panel intends to track this workstream and consider the competing priorities of the approach and social value considerations.

Recommendations Issued in relation to the Transformation Programme:

- That officers provide email updates in respect of details of targets for citizen accounts; the financial information behind the milestone tracker; the commercialisation work stream.
- That the programme should show a clear separation between budget overspend and attainment of savings generated as part of transformation activity.
- That there should be a mechanism in place to ensure that demand risks are identified and there is clarity on the implications of those risks and how they might be mitigated.

Focus for Next Year

The Panel will continue to look at the procurement and commercialisation work streams of the Transformation Programme. In addition there will be greater emphasis on financial scrutiny through out the municipal year.

Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Panel – Work Programme 2017/18

MTFP and in-year financial monitoring	New IT system
Transformational programme and savings	Commissioning authority
Democracy Commission work streams	Procurement
Assets	Access to services



Economy and Neighbourhoods Panel

Economy and Neighbourhoods Overview & Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Rob Walker (LEAD MEMBER)
Councillor Martyn Bolt
Councillor Judith Hughes
Councillor Darren O'Donovan
Councillor Marielle O'Neill
Councillor Gemma Wilson
Mark Mercer (Co-OPTEE)

The two main areas of focus for the economy and neighbourhoods panel have been housing and transport.

Housing

An initial strategic overview of the housing pot in Kirklees led the panel to focus on two areas:

- Homelessness and rough sleeping - Initial consideration of the co-ordination and range of services and work which the council and local agencies and groups in Kirklees provide. Councillors wanted more information, plus assurances, on the development of a local 'Rough sleeper outreach initiative', and the work with community groups and volunteers, to help make sure that they and their colleagues are able and trained to deal appropriately with those vulnerable people who are homeless or sleeping rough.

- Extra Care and Supported Housing – consideration of the level of demand and supply of extra care and supported housing in Kirklees. Panel members had the opportunity to visit Sandymount, Meadow Green and Meadow Green Lodge to see working examples of extra care in the Kirklees district.

Transport

There has been initial consideration of the issues facing the development of the key transport links in Kirklees and West Yorkshire, focusing in particular on local road links.

Transport for the North has agreed to hold a public consultation event in the Kirklees area on its 30 year Strategic Transport Plan.

Informal discussions with Network Rail covered recent announcements on the development of the transpennine rail routes. There was an undertaking to maintain contact as the plans developed from 2018/19 onwards.

Focus for Next Year

Next year the panel will continue to look in more detail at elements of housing in Kirklees, including the Allocations Policy, the need for more and a revised housing strategy. There will also be scrutiny of the emerging Skills Strategy, the Economy Strategy and waste minimisation.

Economy and Neighbourhoods Overview & Scrutiny Panel – Work Programme 2017/18

Kirklees – housing policy and strategy	Demand and availability of supported housing (extra care housing)
Local and regional transport developments	Waste management strategy
Strategic road links	Homelessness and rough sleepers
Towns and communities – challenges for the future	Recycling rates

Elective Home Education Ad-Hoc Panel Highlights

Terms of reference	Membership
<p>To scrutinise Elective Home Education in Kirklees, with a particular focus on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing an understanding of why some parents and carers choose to home educate, and for how long children are typically home educated for. - Scrutinising the local authority's responsibilities for home educated children. - Scrutinising how the local authority identifies, supports and ensures the safety and wellbeing of electively home educated children. - Scrutinising elective home educated children's progression onto further education and employment and the outcomes achieved at Key Stage 4 & 5. 	<p>Councillor Cahal Burke (CHAIR) Councillor Lisa Holmes Councillor Habiban Zaman Kimberley Stock (Co-OPTEE)</p>

The Ad-Hoc Panel relating to Elective Home Education (EHE) has met on 2 occasions in March 2018 to review a number of briefing papers around the duties that local authorities have in relation to children who are home educated. In choosing to educate a child at home, parents have withdrawn them from local authority provision. The responsibility for both the financial and practical provision of education, rests with the parents. However, as an authority, Kirklees feel it is beneficial for parents to meet with the EHE team to discuss how they will educate their child.

Some parents choose to engage with the EHE team, whilst others do not. The panel have received data relating to how many families fall into each category, and have received further data in relation to the reasons why parents would choose to home educate their child. The panel heard that schools do not always give a full explanation as to why a child had been taken off roll, and the panel felt that

a more robust questionnaire would assist the EHE team in identifying where there may be problems at schools for some families.

The Elective Home Education Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel has been re-established for the 2018/19 municipal year to complete its work.

QUOTE FROM THE CHAIR: Councillor Cahal Burke

The panel would like the opportunity to meet with some parents who home educate their children, and some events will be set up to facilitate this. The panel particularly would like to address the issues of taking exams, engagement with the local authority and the proposal of a qualified teacher being available to evaluate work undertaken by home educated children.

The panel wants to look at the current Kirklees policy relating to EHE, and assist the EHE team in reviewing the policy to enable both parents and the local authority to achieve the best outcomes for home educated children.



JHSC Panels' Headlines

Calderdale & Huddersfield JHSC
<p>Councillor Elizabeth Smaje Councillor Andrew Marchington Councillor Julie Stewart-Turner Councillor Carole Pattison Councillor Adam Wilkinson - Calderdale Council Councillor Chris Pearson - Calderdale Council Councillor Ashley Evans - Calderdale Council Councillor Anne Collins - Calderdale Council</p>

Following an extensive piece of joint health scrutiny work, the Calderdale and Kirklees Joint Health Scrutiny Committee (JHSC) met on the 21 July 2017 and expressed serious concerns about some of the consequences associated with Calderdale Clinical Commissioning Group and Greater Huddersfield Clinical Commissioning Group proposals to reconfigure hospital and community health services in Calderdale and Greater Huddersfield.

The JHSC agreed to exercise its right to refer the proposals to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and the referral letter was sent in September 2017.

On 10 May 2018 The Secretary of State wrote a letter of response to the joint chairs of the JHSC and included a copy of the review that had been undertaken by the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP). The IRP asked the local NHS and the JHSC to take stock of the current situation and, in particular, to focus on: the programme for changes to out of hospital services; hospital capacity; and capital financing.

The Secretary of State asked NHS England and NHS Improvement to work with the local CCGs and the JHSC and report back in three months (10 August 2018) on progress in implementing the IRP recommendations.

Current position

The JHSC met on 6 July 2018 to formally receive the Secretary of State's (SoS) response and the IRP's assessment report. The JHSC also received an update from the NHS on the work that had taken place in response to the actions identified by the IRP and SoS and outlined its next steps.

The JHSC agreed a number of actions that included holding an informal workshop with the Clinical Commissioning Groups and CHFT to consider the response that NHS bodies plan to make to the Secretary of State. In addition the panel would timetable and agree future work. The JHSC also resolved to submit a response to the Secretary of State.



JHSC Panels' Headlines

West Yorkshire JHSC
<p>Councillor H Hayden (Chair) (Leeds) Councillor M Gibbons (Bradford) Councillor V Greenwood (Bradford) Councillor A Evans (Calderdale) Councillor S Baines (Calderdale) Councillor J Hughes (Kirklees) Councillor E Smaje (Kirklees) Councillor B Flynn (Leeds) Councillor Y Crewe (Wakefield) Councillor B Rhodes (Wakefield)</p>

The JHSC met in November 2017 to consider an update on the programme area associated with Improving stroke services, as part of the wider West Yorkshire and Harrogate Sustainability and Transformation Plan. The JHSC also received an update on the progress made and next steps on the West Yorkshire and Harrogate (WY&H) Health and Care Partnership.

and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership (WY&H HCP) and to help identify and agree priority areas for the future. The workshop included representation from the partnership who provided an update on the overall WY&H HCP programme, including the vision for health and care across West Yorkshire & Harrogate. The JHSC used the information to help inform its work on scoping out its priorities and future work plan

In January 2018 the JHSC held a workshop to develop its understanding of the West Yorkshire



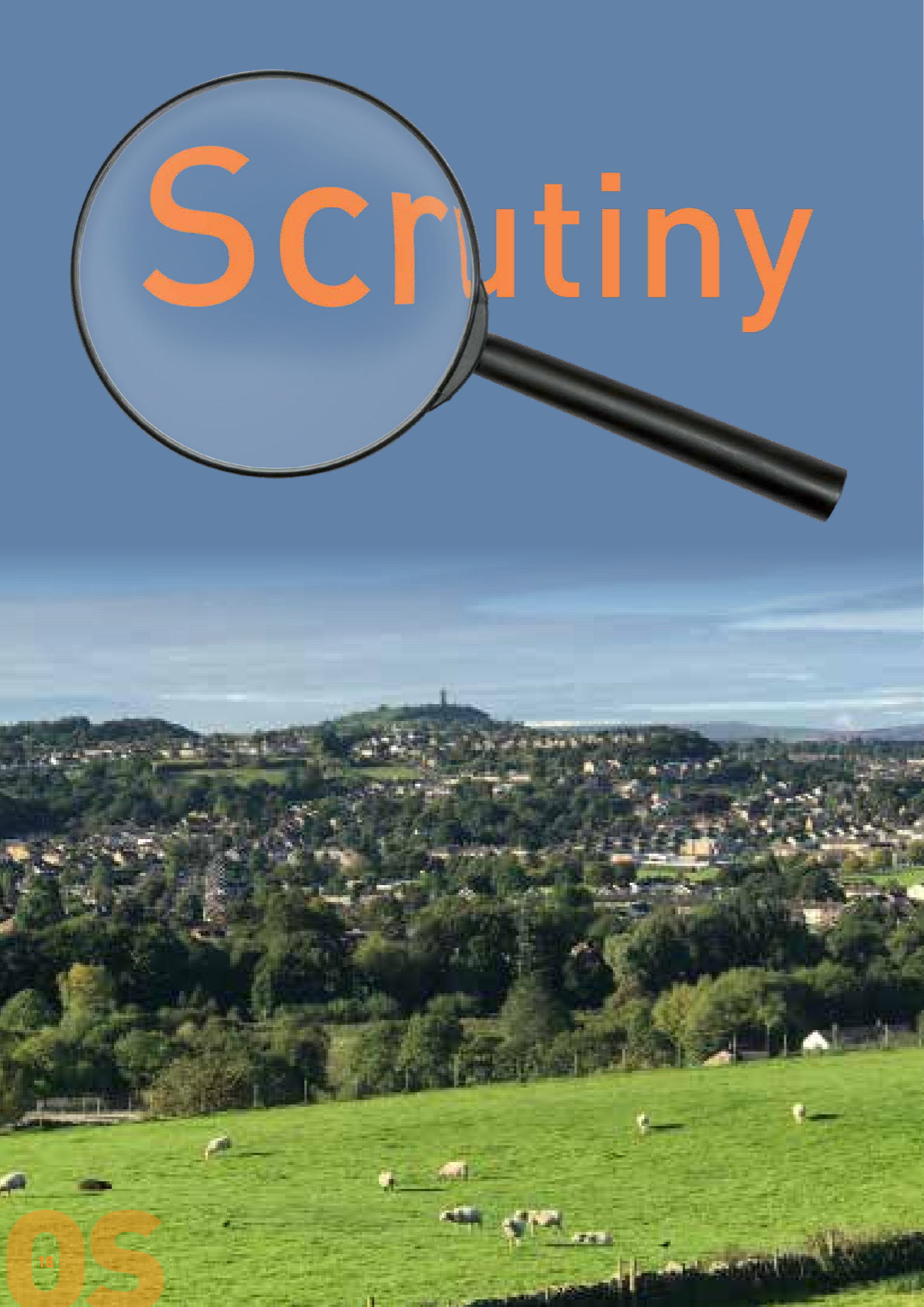
JHSC Panels' Headlines

Mid Yorkshire Hospital Trust JHSC
<p>Councillor Elizabeth Smaje Councillor Eric Firth Councillor Gulfam Asif Councillor John Lawson Councillor Betty Rhodes - Wakefield Council Councillor Anthony Wallis - Wakefield Council Councillor Yvonne Crewe - Wakefield Council Councillor Margaret Holwell - Wakefield Council</p>

Since May 2014, the JHSC has been scrutinising the implementation process for the agreed changes to hospital services within the Mid Yorkshire Hospitals Trust area. The final phase of the Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust "Meeting the Challenge" Programme was considered at the JHSC meeting held in October 2017. It was noted at that meeting that the Good Governance Institute had been commissioned to carry out a comprehensive,

formal evaluation of the Meeting the Challenge Programme. Members agreed to consider the outcome of that evaluation at a future meeting in order to conclude the JHSC's review of the programme. Initially it was hoped that the meeting would take place in the 2017/18 municipal year however, due to delays, it should now take place in Autumn 2018.





Frequently Asked Questions

Here are some brief answers to the most frequently asked questions about overview & scrutiny.

What is overview & scrutiny?

Overview & scrutiny acts as a check and balance to the council's decision maker (the cabinet) by holding it to account for its decision. Overview & scrutiny aims to:

- Contribute to the development of strategic decisions before Cabinet makes them
- Ensure cabinet is accountable for the decisions it has made
- Improve the performance of the council's services
- Improve the performance of other public services for which the council has responsibility or is a stakeholder in
- Actively engage local people in overview & scrutiny and promote issues which are of importance and relevance to them.

Who is involved?

Any councillor, other than those who hold a cabinet post, can take part in scrutiny work. Panels in Kirklees also include statutory and voluntary co-optees and are supported by governance & democratic engagement officers. Cabinet members and senior officers are invited to attend scrutiny panels to discuss issues that the scrutiny panel has identified as a priority.

Is scrutiny a party political activity?

Scrutiny is a key part of the political process; however it is not party political. The scrutiny committee and panel structure are made up of councillors from across all the political groups.

Councillors aim to leave their party politics at the door and look objectively at issues, basing their findings on the evidence they receive.

How do you choose what to scrutinise?

The councillors and voluntary co-optees involved in overview & scrutiny decide which issues they want to prioritise, with the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee responsible for managing the overall overview & scrutiny work programme. Carrying out effective scrutiny takes a lot of time, commitment and effort so it is simply not possible to look at every issue. When choosing issues, overview & scrutiny will consider whether it can make a real difference by looking at the issue (for example, whether recommendations could result in improved services.)

What can't scrutiny look at and why?

Overview & scrutiny is not appropriate for considering individual complaints. The panels also cannot investigate regulatory or 'quasi-judicial' decisions, such as planning or licensing decisions.

How can the public get involved?

- Attend public meetings of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and the panels.
- Suggest a topic for overview & scrutiny.
- Provide evidence at a panel or send us your views.
- Join a pool of people interested in being co-opted on to a panel when vacancies are advertised.



Team contact details

Contact the Team

Civic Centre 3
High Street
Huddersfield HD1 2TG

Email: scrutiny.governance@kirklees.gov.uk

Phone: 01484 221000

Facebook: www.facebook.com/kirklees.scrutiny

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/kirkleescrutiny>

Lead officer details

Overview & Scrutiny OSMC Lead –

Penny Bunker, Governance & Democratic Engagement Manager

Children's Panel

Yolande Myers, Governance & Democratic Engagement Officer

Corporate Panel

Alaina McGlade, Governance & Democratic Engagement Officer

Economy & Neighbourhoods Panel

Richard Dunne, Principal Governance & Democratic Engagement Officer

Health & Adult Social Affairs Panel

Richard Dunne, Principal Governance & Democratic Engagement Officer

Joint Health Scrutiny

Richard Dunne, Principal Governance & Democratic Engagement Officer

Alaina McGlade, Governance & Democratic Engagement Officer