

# **REPORT BY THE 2016/17 CHAIRMAN OF THE SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT TEAM ON OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ACTIVITY**

## **Scrutiny Management Team**

Since the report to the last Council meeting the Scrutiny Management Team has met twice. The first meeting was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March and involved the members of the Team from 2015/16. The former Chairman of the Team, Councillor Christian Wakeford will provide an update on that meeting.

My first meeting as Chairman was held on 24<sup>th</sup> May. I, along with several other members of the Team, am new to scrutiny and indeed to the Council itself. It was most gratifying to see the welcome all members displayed in embracing a total commitment to all party engagement.

At the meeting –

- We appointed Councillor David Whalley as Vice-Chairman.
- We received the annual report of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel which provided information on the various topics that had been considered by the Panel in 2015/16. This included work on the recommissioning of homecare services; eye care provision; mental health in the community, care homes and mental health wards; drug and alcohol rehabilitation provision in East Lancashire; North West Ambulance Service; and the Fracture Clinic.
- Councillors Wayne Blackburn, Ken Hartley, Sheila Wicks and myself were appointed to the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel. We have since been joined by Councillors Marjorie Adams and Noel McEvoy. Although the Panel has reduced in number since last year when we had 8 members, we are enthusiastic and committed to a full work programme. Many of the Panel attended the Airedale NHS Foundation Trust Board meeting and subsequent exhibition at Barnoldswick Civic Hall, where we displayed a stall promoting the work of the Council and the Scrutiny Team in areas of health and wellbeing.
- As requested by Council, we have established a scrutiny panel to carry out a review on youth engagement. Councillors George Adam, Sarah Cockburn-Price, Nathan McCollum, David Whalley and myself have been appointed to the Panel and Councillor Lyle Davy, the Council's Member Champion for Young People has been invited to participate. We have begun the review by meeting with students of Nelson and Colne College and intend to expand on this with further meetings with youth groups etc.
- Finally, we considered our work programme for the year. At the request of Council we have added a review on the impact of disability budget cuts on residents in Pendle to the work programme and hope to start this in September of this year.

## **Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel**

The Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel has also held its first meeting of the municipal year.

At the meeting –

- We re-appointed Councillor Ken Hartley as Leader of the Panel.
- We then welcomed representatives of the East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (ELCCG), who gave a presentation on **proposals to improve access to GP services in East Lancashire**. The proposed model includes providing access to routine GP services from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. by one call to your local practice. Every locality would have access to a health hub by offering additional GP or specialist nurse appointments from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday as well as an urgent care service from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. This will be in addition to the minor injuries unit and the GP out of hours service. These proposals follow significant engagement with the public and patients. The new model will be finalised following the closure of the consultation on the 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2016.

Unfortunately many of you were unable to accept our invitation to join us for the presentation. You are therefore encouraged to contact ELCCG by the 8<sup>th</sup> July if you have any comments on the proposals. More details can be found via the following link -

<http://www.eastlancscg.nhs.uk/improving-gp-access/>

- We continued our review of **mental health in the community, care homes and mental health wards** by receiving details on local and national organisations available to people in East Lancashire. We also considered a summary of a report by an independent mental health taskforce, who had been commissioned by the NHS to give a frank assessment of the state of current mental health care across the NHS. The investigations revealed some worrying statistics and the findings and recommendations in the report has resulted in the Government announcing that an extra £1 billion is to be invested in mental health care by 2021 and a million more people will get mental health support.

We are now going to move onto the second stage of our review by gathering evidence on mental health in care homes.

- As you are aware, last year's Panel began a review on Lancashire County Council's (LCC's) proposals to **recommission homecare services** for older adults and people with a physical disability. We last reported that the procurement process had been discontinued as it had become apparent that it was vulnerable to challenge. Since then, things have moved on and we are told that a number of documents have now been developed for the new framework. These were due to go out for consultation with providers by the end of June with a view to it going out to tender in August 2016. We expect to receive an update at our December meeting.
- In the Team's last report you were told of questions and concerns that we had put to the ELCCG and East Lancashire Hospitals Trust (ELHT) regarding the trial transfer of the **fracture clinic** from Burnley General Hospital to Royal Blackburn Hospital. Although the trial completed at the end of February, 2016 I am disappointed to report that we are still awaiting a formal response on the outcome.
- I am pleased to report that, following agreement that a **Changing Places Toilet Facility** be installed at Stanley Villas, Albert Road, Colne the equipment has been ordered and is currently being manufactured. This process takes approximately six weeks, and will then require a further two weeks for installation. The premises will open on completion of staff training which we are told will take approximately two weeks. Once open we shall make arrangements for the facility to be promoted on the Council's website.

- We also discussed the **Lancashire and South Cumbria Change Programme** which has been established to develop a long term strategy to address the health and wellbeing of the population in Lancashire and South Cumbria. A number of Panel members, including myself, attended an awareness briefing and the information supplied has since been circulated to all Members. This includes answers to some frequently asked questions.

The journey so far has reached the development of the Case for Change, a document which will set out the challenges over the next five years and beyond. In September, there will be Sounding Board events in five areas of Lancashire which will consist of around 50 volunteers. In order to challenge and contribute to the programme, the Panel has nominated Councillor Wayne Blackburn to participate in the Sounding Board events.

- Finally, we agreed our work programme for the coming year, which includes the continuing reviews of mental health in the community, care homes and mental health wards and drug and alcohol rehabilitation provision in East Lancashire.

Councillor Ken Turner,  
Chairman, Scrutiny Management Team  
30<sup>th</sup> June, 2016