

## **Report to Council**

# **Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/2018**

**Report of:** Cllr Colin McLaren, Chair of Overview & Scrutiny

**Officer Contact:** Dami Awobajo, Head of Business Intelligence

**Report Author:** Lori Hughes, Constitutional Services Officer  
**Ext.** 4716

**11 July 2018**

---

### **Reason for Decision**

To provide Council with an overview of the contribution made by Overview and Scrutiny during the 2017/18 Municipal Year as required in line with the Council's Constitution.

### **Executive Summary**

The report outlines the purpose of overview and scrutiny, the roles and responsibilities of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, Performance and Value for Money Select Committee and the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee, a summary of the work undertaken by overview and scrutiny during 2017/18 and an outline of how individuals can get involved in overview and scrutiny in Oldham.

### **Recommendations**

Council is asked to note the contribution of Overview and Scrutiny during the 2017/18 Municipal Year.

## 1. **What is Overview and Scrutiny?**

- 1.1 All local authorities with an executive model have an Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) function, which was introduced by the Local Government Act 2000.
- 1.2 Further legislation for scrutiny was introduced under:
  - Health and Social Care Act 2001
  - Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committee Health Scrutiny Functions) Regulations 2002
  - Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
  - Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009
  - Localism Act 2011
  - The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012
  - Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013
- 1.3 Overview and Scrutiny bodies are made up of Elected Members (Councillors) who are not members of the Cabinet but who hold those decision makers who are members of the Cabinet to account. The Overview and Scrutiny process is not political – it is driven by the interests of the residents of Oldham.
- 1.4 Overview and Scrutiny bodies cannot make decisions, but instead examine policies, decisions, areas of work and make recommendations to the Cabinet. It acts as a “critical friend” to the Council and its partners around the decision-making process and uses informed debate and evidence to make its recommendations.
- 1.5 Scrutiny works to drive forward improvements to the Council’s policies, procedures and delivery.

## 2 **Policy Development**

- 2.1 The key focus of overview and scrutiny work is to influence and develop policy. Overview and Scrutiny can do this through the following ways:
  - Decision-Making Scrutiny - Holding the Executive to account is a key part of the Overview and Scrutiny role. This is done through receiving reports at Committee, Call-in and questioning of Cabinet Members at scrutiny meetings.
  - Pre-Decision Input - Input on draft policies and strategies before they have been agreed by Cabinet or Council helps to ensure they are more robust and that a check and balance process is in place. It also provides an opportunity for cross party consensus to be developed on issues such as the Corporate Plan, Education Strategy and Council Tax Reduction. Overview and Scrutiny can act as a consultee in respect of such policies and potential new legislation.
  - Monitor and Track Implementation of Recommendations - Ensuring that the views and contributions of Overview and Scrutiny have been considered when work is undertaken to improve services – an essential part of the scrutiny process.

---

### 3 Roles and Responsibilities

#### 3.1 Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

##### 3.1.1 Membership

- Councillor McLaren (Chair)
- Councillor Goodwin (Vice-Chair)
- Councillor Dean
- Councillor A. Hussain
- Councillor Larkin
- Councillor Toor
- Councillor Williams
- Councillor Williamson
- Councillor Salamat (substitute)
- Councillor Cosgrove (substitute)
- Councillor Briggs (substitute)
- Councillor Ames (substitute)
- Councillor Hewitt (substitute)
- Councillor Harkness (substitute)

3.1.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board leads the development of the Overview and Scrutiny process in Oldham. The Board chooses issues and topics to look at during the year, be it reviewing a proposed policy in advance of decision or considering the impact of a key decision made by the Council.

3.1.3 The Board is also responsible for:

- Publicly holding the Executive to account for delivering the Council's priorities and for the decisions they make.
- Examining any matters of wider public interest (not just Council services) which affect the wellbeing of the Borough and its people.
- Having a statutory role scrutinising substantial developments or changes to National Health Services and Crime and Disorder issues.

3.1.4 During the last year, the Chair also continued to meet with the senior managers in each of the Council's Directorates. At these meetings, the Chair and officers considered issues Overview and Scrutiny could potentially add value to regarding the development of Council services, policies and the decision making process.

3.1.5 Full Council may refer matters to Overview and Scrutiny for examination of the viability of implementing proposals contained in the motions and report back on their findings.

#### 3.2 Performance and Value for Money Select Committee

##### 3.2.1 Membership

- Councillor Wrigglesworth (Chair)
- Councillor Ahmad (Vice-Chair)
- Councillor M. Bashforth
- Councillor Ali
- Councillor Fielding
- Councillor Phythian
- Councillor Harkness
- Councillor Sheldon

- 
- Councillor Dean(substitute)
  - Councillor A. Alexander (substitute)
  - Councillor Cosgrove (substitute)
  - Councillor S. Bashforth (substitute)
  - Councillor McCann (substitute)
- 3.2.2 The Performance and Value for Money Select Committee considers how the Council and its partners are performing and whether value for money is being provided for the people of Oldham. It also monitors the implementation of recommendations which Overview and Scrutiny has had accepted by the Council's Cabinet.
- 3.2.3 One of the most important aspects of the Select Committee's role is to examine the Council's budget proposals each year. This involves considering both the administration's budget and any alternative budget proposals put forward by the opposition.
- 3.2.4 The Select Committee also examines the Council's corporate performance report on a quarterly basis and considers the performance and value for money of the Council's work undertaken with partners.

### **3.3 Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee**

The Sub-Committee was established to discharge the responsibilities of the Council for health scrutiny functions, receive and respond to referrals from Healthwatch Oldham and also scrutinise the Health and Wellbeing Board and its appropriate policies and strategies to include the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Health Protection.

## **4 Where has O&S contributed in 2017/18?**

### **4.1 O&S Management Board: Key Plans and Strategies**

- 4.1.1 Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) – the Board were provided with an update on the annual data return for 2016/17, the current position and areas of development. The DoLS were aimed at the protection of people who needed to be legally deprived of liberty in order to be given care and treatment in a hospital or care home. The DoLS had been criticised as being excessively bureaucratic and had placed an increased burden on local authorities and social care practitioners. The Board were informed that draft legislation had been proposed by the Law Commission which would be less onerous. The Board commented on the level of bureaucracy and funding.
- 4.1.2 Updating the Corporate Plan – The Board were apprised of proposed changes to the Corporate Plan. The proposed changes were due to the breadth of changes in the Oldham Plan and significant changes in the Council's approach. The number of corporate objectives had been reviewed, reflected the current organisational properties and reflected key changes, aligned the plan to emerging corporate messaging and suitability for informing business planning. The Board commented that the plan was not just about Oldham but the important role Oldham represented in Greater Manchester working together in a structured way. The Board asked and were informed that the plan was monitored by Business Intelligence. Performance was reported to Cabinet, the Performance and Value for Money Select Committee

---

and the Audit Committee. The Board also questioned the relationship between the Plan and the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework.

- 4.1.3 As part of the Work and Skills Strategy, the Board were informed of the development of the Career Advancement Service which extended the core Get Oldham Working (GOW) offer and sought the improvement of population skills which supported Oldham's goals. Members were informed about changes to the allocation of adult education budgets, the Area Based Review and the core structure required to meet the needs of local employers. Members also sought clarification on careers guidance and the targets that had been set.
- 4.1.4 Academy Conversion and Free Schools – The Board were provided with an update on the policies which had been developed in order for the local authority to formally specify its preferred requirements with regard to Academy and Free Schools sponsors and the approach that would be undertaken by the local authority under the conversion process. The policies would be reviewed and possibly combined into one policy. The Board sought and received clarification on the position of Councillors as Governors. The Board also sought information on challenging enforced conversion.
- 4.1.5 Review of Virtual School Annual Report and Autumn Term Update – The Board were provided with an update on the role of the Virtual School and recent educational outcomes for Oldham's Looked After Children (LAC). Members were informed of the greater emphasis on supporting emotional wellbeing and mental health. Members were also informed of Personal Educational Plans (PEPs) and the move to an electronic PEP. The Virtual School Headteacher had set a comprehensive plan, had demonstrated a significant impact and was building strong relationships with schools. Members were informed about the challenge at Key Stage 4, challenges related to engagement and attendance as well as supplementary curriculums. Members sought and received clarification around exclusions, the growing number of LAC and intervention with families. Members also received information related to additional support for children from BME families.
- 4.1.6 Homelessness Strategy – an update was provided on the Homelessness Strategy and homelessness issues in Oldham. All local authorities were required to take a more strategic and multi-agency approach which tackled all forms of homelessness and prevention. The Council had developed strong relationships with partners and levels of homelessness in Oldham were amongst the lowest in Greater Manchester. The current strategy covered the 2016 – 2021 time period and was backed by an annual action plan. A number of policies were highlighted which would have an impact on the services which included changes to homeless legislation and welfare reform. The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) had been approached by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to pilot a prevention approach and a bid had been submitted for funding along with bids for resources to support work with rough sleepers and those at risk of sleeping rough. The Board were also informed of additional responsibilities and burdens placed on the authority, the need for additional resources, local housing allowance cap, increased rent arrears, mortgage repossession, asylum seeker dispersal and out of area placements. Housing allocations were being reviewed and additional resources being sought. The Board raised the issue of the difficulty faced by residents to get rented accommodation due to up-front costs. Members were informed that additional resources were sought to provide additional capacity and access to facilities. Members commented that priority should be given to families with children and it was confirmed that they were prioritised. Members also commented on Housing in Multiple Occupation and their prevalence due to residents being unable to afford to buy their own home.

- 
- 4.1.7 GM 2040 Transport Strategy and Supporting Sustainable Economic Growth - the Board were provided with an update on the strategy and plan which had been adopted in February 2017. The strategy provided a long-term framework for the improvement of transport across the city region and accommodated the levels of growth. Two key government policy documents had been published which could affect the strategy and included the Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy and National Air Quality Action Plan. The Council was reviewing its local Plan which included issues such as transport and accessibility. Members sought and received clarification on the third city crossing, the outcome of the National Productivity Investment Fund (NPF) bid, job seekers travel initiative and the "Get Me There Card" including use on Metrolink. Members raised an issue related to the timing issue on the use of some tickets.
- 4.1.8 Strategic Regeneration: Oldham Town Centre Masterplan and Prince's Gate Update – The Board were provided with an update on key strategic regeneration programmes. The Board queried the proposed market development. The Board also sought and received clarification on additional sites being considered for improvement, the extent of disruptions, risk assessments and mitigation. The Board were also provided with an update on the Town Centre Parking Strategy. The number of car parking spaces had reduced in the last four years but measures had been put into place to mitigate the issue. The Board were also informed that to assist with traffic enforcement measures and encourage use of public transport, bus lane enforcement had been introduced to three main roads. Clarification was provided to the Board on the promotion of park and ride schemes in Oldham and the outcome of a parking review.
- 4.1.9 Generation Oldham – The Board were provided with an update on the Generation Oldham community programme and it was reported that all objectives had been achieved and a new set of objectives had been developed as part of the Green Oldham Strategy. Solar PV systems had been installed on all Phase 1 sites. The funding arrangements were clarified to the Board which included share offers and planned promotions. Future phases which could include further Council buildings were outlined to the Board. The Board raised the decreasing profitability of solar panels and were informed of expressions of interests in the scheme.

#### 4.2 **O&S Management Board: internal and external consultations**

- 4.2.1 Business Growth and Investment Review – The Board were provided with information as to how the Council could optimise business engagement and provide competitive business support to maximise business growth and investment in the Borough. Members sought and received clarification on how businesses could connect with the Council as the process had seemed complex. The Board queried and were informed how opportunities would be created for young people whereby the strategy would assist in identifying future business needs and help develop appropriate courses and skills. The Board were informed of key performance indicators and an explanation of the action plan and the link to encourage young people to stay, live and work in Oldham. The Board endorsed the recommended option.
- 4.2.2 SMART – The Board were informed of an ongoing project related to Unity Partnership Ltd.



---

### 4.3 O&S Management Board: Services monitored

#### 4.3.1 Universal Credit - The Board received several presentations over the 2017/18 period which included a presentation by representatives from the Department of Work and Pensions.

The first report was an update from Council officers on the roll out of Universal Credit in Oldham. The update included information on sanctions, early observations and ongoing work on the mitigation of the impact on residents. Members were informed of increased queries at the Citizen's Advice Bureau. The Board were informed of the use of sanctions and work ongoing to maximise the use of the council tax reduction scheme and the take up of free school meal entitlements. Members raised concerns on the five – six week delay, digital access and the application and severity of sanctions. Members also expressed concern on the number of residents under pressure and the number of foodbank certificates issues. Members also highlighted concerns on the impact on landlords on direct payments. Members received clarification on the rent arrears and the appeals process.

The second report was a presentation by DWP representatives which provided the opportunity for them to advise how the implementation in Oldham was progressing and allowed members to raise questions. The Board were informed about the digital services, notifications and assistance for claimants available to assist when making claims. Members were also informed about personal budgeting support.

Board Members raised the following points:

- concern which included the delay in claimants receiving payments and received an explanation on why monthly payments had been implemented;
- queried how support was provided to those claimants who did not have digital access
- the use of sanctions, the discretion available to DWP staff and guidance on its use and the higher sanction rate in Oldham;
- the take up of the council tax reduction scheme and free school meals;
- the lack of direct payment to landlords causing residents to fall into arrears;
- affordability of digital access on devices by claimants and received an explanation that services could be accessed on devices at the Job Centre and libraries where staff had been trained to assist;
- the increase of the use of foodbanks; and
- support provided to the BME residents with language difficulties and disabled residents and support available was explained.

The third report provided an update on the roll out of the Universal Credit Full Service in Oldham. The Board were provided an update on the number of claimants and work to raise awareness for residents to claim support. Members were also provided an update on the changes to Universal Credit announced in the Autumn Budget.

#### 4.3.2 Children's Social Care 'Getting to Good' Implementation Plan – an update had been provided to the Board which outlined progress to date since the inspection in May/June 2015. A number of key changes had been implemented which supported essential components that included workforce, management and leadership capacity and performance management and quality assurance. Members questioned the reasons for increased demand and the cases were outlined. Members asked about the monitoring of the pupil premium and were informed that this was monitored through education plans. Members also questioned additional investment which was being used to support additional investment for training, recruitment, induction and

---

ongoing training. Members received a second update which provided an update on the progress on the improvement priorities as identified to the Board in 2017.

- 4.3.3 Selective Licensing Scheme – The Board received an update on the progress of the schemes which was in Year 3 of the 5 year scheme. Members were apprised of applications received and issues which had arisen related to those landlords who failed to license their properties, warning letters issued, work with Immigration Enforcement and United Utilities. Members were also provided an update on the management of properties and condition audits. The Board agreed to convene a workshop in order to review the Licensing Scheme as recommended by the Housing Act 2004.
- 4.3.4 Resident First Programme Update – The Board were provided with a review of progress since the programme had commenced in Autumn 2016, an outline of each project and how it had benefited both residents and the Council. In addition to six service projects, there were three cross-cutting projects designed to drive improvements. The programme was focussed on digitising and improving the customer journey. A number of services were available on-line including in-year school transfer, Registrars, flytipping, licensing and highways. Developments included an on-line application process, ability to pay on-line, upload documents, the introduction text messaging, self-serve, self-track and progress tracking. It was confirmed to the members that reference numbers were supplied for tracking purposes as well as Global Positioning System (GPS) information. Members sought clarification on access via an app and website. A new web foundation would be available for new developments and the app would be available when the digital capability was available. Members were informed that translation capability was part of the website project. Members were informed how the new system would be marketed. Members also queried the applications for free school meals and how the system had made an impact. Members also queried access and it was confirmed that support was available on-line and through libraries. Work was ongoing with housing partners. Members were provided with a second update later in the municipal year and noted progress being made on the programme and planned resident improvements.
- 4.3.5 Oldham Council Libraries Savings and Impact - The Board were provided with information on the impact of budget savings to Oldham Council Libraries and the services current challenges and developments. Members were informed about achievement of savings, recruitment of volunteers and decentralisation of the service. Oldham's position against other local authorities was explained as well as new initiatives and projects funding by successful bids to external funding streams. Members raised and received clarification on the Book fund, the performance of the Library Service, the use of volunteers being increased and the e-book offer in the libraries.
- 4.3.6 Update on the Social Values in Procurement – The Board received an update on the implementation of the inclusion of social values into the commissioning life-cycle. Work had continued on the implementation of the framework and a set of procurement principles developed to guide the approach to social value. Members queried the access to the CHEST system by local companies as representations had been received from companies who had been unable to bid. Members asked that the organisation's approach be reviewed to encourage more Oldham companies to bid.



---

#### 4.4 Motions Referred to Overview and Scrutiny

The following motions were referred to Overview and Scrutiny for investigation:

- Community Shop – this item was referred to Board and related to a social enterprise which has a network of social supermarkets, which provided a means for retailers, brand names and manufacturers to redistribute their surplus stock. The Board had given consideration to update on the programme since the motion was referred in February 2015. The Board were provided a further update in respect of the community food and growing hubs across Oldham. The Board were informed of developments on the Oldham model, food markets, locally grown produce for restaurants and the link to cooking skills and employment. The Board were also informed of the community food network development, successful campaigns, establishment of forums, continued delivery of Get Oldham Growing and new health ambassadors. More funding was expected from Well North. The aim was to set up groups, have public health initiatives, for the groups to be sustainable and include education for healthier eating. Members were supportive of the community food network model as it was locally based and focussed and fulfilled objectives under health and wellbeing. The Community Shop model was costly. Members requested work be taken up with schools and residents be encouraged to grow their own.
- Street Charter – The Board received a progress report on a motion that had been referred to them in March 2017 following the adoption of the “Who Put That There” Street Charter for Oldham. A working group had been formed to review the action plan. The aim was to promote the Charter through a strong communication campaign and incorporate it into the Town Centre Master Plan. The Board commented on obstructions on pavements and enforcement.
- Combatting Acid Attacks – Full Council had referred a motion to the Board which requested that the Board, Trading Standards and retailers’ associations examine the merits and practicalities for the introduction of a voluntary scheme related to the sales of corrosive products which contained acids or ammonia to under 21 year olds in advance of future legislation. After taking into consideration the report and information provided at the meeting along with the House of Commons Briefing Paper, it was inappropriate that a voluntary scheme not be introduced at this time.
- Lighten Up Pledge – PVFM was asked to examine the practicality and affordability of replacing street lights and the possibility of the Council making a commitment to replace all street lights with LEDs. This is still in progress.
- Three further motions were referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018 related to:
  - Making Oldham a ‘Single Use Plastic-Free’ Local Authority; and
  - Land Value Taxation; and
  - Restricting New Hot Food Takeaways near SchoolsThese will be addressed as part of the Overview and Scrutiny Board’s 2018/19 Work Programme.

#### 4.5 PVFM Select Committee: Finance Scrutiny

- 4.5.1 Scrutiny of Budget Proposals – The Council’s overall budget proposals for 2018/19 were considered by the Select Committee. The Administration’s proposals were

---

presented to the Committee during January 2018 and the Opposition's proposals were presented in February 2018.

4.5.2 Income Generation Proposals were reviewed as part of the performance monitoring process.

#### 4.6 **PVFM Select Committee: Performance Scrutiny**

4.6.1 Quarterly Council Performance Report and Challenge – Reports were presented to the Committee in terms of how the Council was performing against its key local and statutory priorities. The Committee undertook more detailed scrutiny of a number of topics through examining the performance report.

4.6.2 “Getting to Good’: The Improvement Journey in Children’s Social Care – The Select Committee were provided an update on progress in response to the Ofsted Single Inspection Framework (SIF). It was reported that sustainable improvement had been made which addressed systematic issues highlighted in the inspection. Service developments had focussed on Workforce, Management & Leadership Capacity and Performance. Clarification was provided to the Committee on rise in demand for child protection plans and Looked after Children, service manager recruitment, timeline to respond to Ofsted recommendations; stages and processes in child protection, workforce analysis, reasons for the increases in Children in Need and Early Help Assessment. A further programme update was provided to the Select Committee later in the Municipal Year on the measures put in place as part of the action plan. The Select Committee sought and received clarification on social workers’ caseload and comparison to national data, review findings of those children who were home educated and those who attended licensed schools, use of technology to communicate with young children, transition planned for children and young people with complex needs and recruitment retention.

4.6.3 Provision for Young People at Risk of Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) – the Select Committee were provided information on the provision of engagement activities, non-regulated and regulated learning. Clarification was received in response to comments which included young people’s participation in the programme, Government requirements, work to track young people to ensure participation and the effect of leaving the European Union with funding from the European Social Fund.

4.6.4 MioCare Group CIC – the Select Committee were provided an update on the financial performance of the group and the three year business plan.

4.6.5 Homelessness in Oldham and First Choice Homes Oldham (FCHO) – The Committee were informed of the increase in demand and the register in the last 12 months. Turnover in social housing had reduced with left very few empty properties. The introduction of Universal Credit had increased rent arrears which reduced the rent collected and meant FCHO had less money to invest in additional properties. Members were informed of proposed developments and identification of future sites. Members were provided with information on future plans, growing number of homeless and the cost of bed and breakfast provision. The impact of new legislation was also highlighted.

4.6.6 Delivery of the Free Early Educational Entitlements to Two, Three and Four Year Olds – An overview was provided on the delivery of the free entitlements, specifically the impact of the national funding formula and the launch of the 30 hours free childcare. The full impact of the 30 hours free care would not be known for some time but would be kept under review.

- 
- 4.6.7 Non-Elective Admissions and Delayed Transfers of Care from Hospital – the Committee were provided with an update on the activity and performance information related areas of Adult Social Care responsibility. There were two key indicators which were the number of people who wait longer than four hours to see a consultant at A&E and the number of people who were medically optimised/fit for discharge and a person experienced a delay in being discharged. Members sought clarification on the number of non-emergencies attending A&E and the reasons why were explained. Members noted that the Delayed Transfer of Care performance was one of the best in Greater Manchester.
- 4.6.8 Planning Application Performance – The Committee were informed of three targets set by the DCLG related to major, minor and other planning applications. Despite strong performance the service had encountered “challenges” with regard to database issues and workforce changes. The Committee raised the outcomes of appeals, timeline for ward members requesting a planning application to be decided by Committee, resubmission of applications, ward members notification of planning applications, service quality control, communication between departments, land banking and enforcement process and intensity of land use and explanations were provided.
- 4.6.9 Get Oldham Working Update – the Select Committee received information on the outcomes of the campaign and figures showed that the programme had been successful. A significant number of employment opportunities had been created and filled.
- 4.6.10 Unity Partnership – The performance and value for money provisions and monitoring of the contract with the Unity Partnership for the annual period ending on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 were examined. Key performance indicators and targets were discussed.
- 4.6.11 Public Health Savings Progress and Performance Report – The Committee received an update on the impact on outcomes and service provision linked to public health savings made on Smoking Cessation and Health Trainer (NHS Health Checks) Service, Young People’s Sexual Health Service and Public Health Transformation Fund.
- 4.6.12 Oldham Work and Skills Strategy 2016/20 – The Select Committee were provided with an update on the European Social Fund (ESF) Skills for Life Programme, Get Oldham Working Phase 2 as well as the Careers Advancement Services. Members questioned the users and output percentages, support from potential employers and the future of ESF funding following Brexit.
- 4.6.13 Education and Early Years Position Statement on Standards 2017 – the Select Committee were informed of key educational outcomes in Oldham schools. Settings had improved in 2017 and the gap between national and local figures had narrowed for most borough indicators. Members noted that many standards remained below national average levels. Members commented on the level of improvement in early years, encouraging schools to open nurseries, the drop in performance in 2016, and issues around exclusion and attendance.
- 4.6.14 Greater Manchester Police – The Select Committee were provided information on the grant funding and the real term reduction which had occurred over the past seven years. There had been an increased and more complex demand on policing. The sharp increase in crime and unchanged level of police grant were explained in relation to the precept and how the additional monetary resources would be used were outlined to the Select Committee. Members commented on the redistribution of
-

---

funding from Greater Manchester to national projects, complaints about the 101 system, user of reserves and the capital programme and the launch of Standing Together, partnership working and community safety grants.

4.6.15 Adoption Performance in Oldham – The Select Committee were provided an update on the performance of the service related to the adoption scorecard. The number of Looked After Children had increased, but the percentage of children who had ceased to be looked after through adoption was lower than previous years. The targets set by the Department of Health were outlined and how they were measured. Adoption Now, the new Regional Adoption Agency had started operating in November 2017. Members commented on the working ethos and performance, sharing of best practice and adoption breakdown.

#### 4.7 Health Scrutiny Sub Committee

4.7.1 The Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee has met six times since June 2017. The Committee has received a number of reports from across the Health and Care Sector in Oldham, but has shown a particular interest in the Locality Plan Implementation and the development of an Integrated Care Organisation (ICO).

4.7.2 The focus of the Sub-Committee was on the impact of plans for the devolution of health and social care responsibilities to Greater Manchester. Additionally, the implementation of the Healthier Together reforms of the provision of acute services across Greater Manchester which will impact on the service offer available at the Royal Oldham Hospital and across North-East of Greater Manchester, for Oldham residents. Another area was the CQC inspection of the Hospitals Trust which is detailed below.

4.7.3 The Sub-Committee addressed the following areas:

- Health Protection Annual Report – members were informed of work that had been considered by the Health Protection Sub-Group, range of priorities and performance measured against the Public Health Outcomes. The Sub-Committee sought and received clarification on the low uptake in women of HIV testing, latent TB, flu vaccination take up and better use of the pharmaceutical approach to reduce the prescription of antibiotics.
- Public Health Annual Report – members were provided with a report of the Director of Public Health on the state of the health of Oldham's communities. The Sub-Committee sought and received clarification on school readiness, impact of sport activities, smoking & health, obesity and alcohol consumption.
- Pennine Acute Hospital Trust CQC Inspection –the Sub-Committee were provided with an update on the Pennine Improvement Plan following the CQC Inspection. Actions and improvements made over the last 12 months were noted. Members were informed about the creation of the Northern Care Alliance. Members commented positively on the arrangements at A&E whereby children were now separate from adults. Member commented positively on the provision of end of life care. Members also commented on staff training and financial sustainability.
- Pennine Care CQC Report –the Sub-Committee were provided with an update on the improvement action plan. A programme of refurbishment had been completed and additional funding had been received for the upgrade to a number of buildings to improve patients' experience. Monthly meetings were taking place

---

between the CQC and the new senior leadership team to ensure that the Trust was on track with all work streams on the improvement plan. A forward plan would be developed to guarantee consistent quality improvement. Members commented on the impact of the rating on staff morale, the old and new inspection regime, the improvement to services and managing the budget deficit of the trust, prevention, and the ability to retain members of staff.

- Local Care Organisation and Transformation Fund Update – members were provided with information on the latest developments on the establishment of the Local Care Organisation which was part of the Locality Plan and concerned the way health and social care services would be commissioned and delivered in the Borough. The Transformation Fund Bid had been agreed by the GM Health and Social Care Partnership Board. The ICO model aimed to develop an integrated care approach. A strong focus was placed on Thriving Communities. A further progress update was also provided where members referred to budget deficits and rationalisation of services. Members also sought clarification on communications to residents and governance. A further update was received in the year on the progress of the developed and development on the cluster hubs. Members were informed of the redesign of Adult Social Care which featured two elements: Commissioning and Provider. Members questioned how performance would be monitored and the challenge of recruiting qualified staff.
- A&E Primary Care Streaming and Associated Changes to Urgent Primary Care – the Sub-Committee were informed of the approach, preferred model and service specification for the service to be developed. The Sub-Committee were informed of the aims of the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), and the vision for primary care led urgent care. A service specification had been drafted in line with NHS Principal and Standards. The relationship with the Oldham Locality Plan was outlined and members received clarification on the proposed model which included quality of healthcare advice, funding, targets and communications.
- Tobacco Control Policy – The Sub-Committee were informed of the Council's current position on the tobacco control agenda and public health's proposed changes to the Council's Smoking policy. The Health and Wellbeing Board had agreed Oldham's Tobacco Control Plan. Three key actions were identified as priorities and included: Complete the first phase of the CLearR process; reduce the number of women who smoke during pregnancy and review of the Council's smoking policy. Members sought and received further information on proposals for expansion to other Council sites and the timescale for implementation.
- Implementation of the Right Start Services – The Sub-Committee were provided with an update on the implementation of the service, performance reporting with emerging outcomes and the impact of the Trust's CQC inspection and subsequent action plan on the Right Start Service in Oldham. The Sub-Committee queried referrals, percentage information for each ward and support for those residents who did not have English as their first language.
- The Sub-Committee were provided with an update on the progression and achievements to date of the 'Fit for Oldham' Programme as well as the added benefits, value and future plans.
- Regional Adoption Agency – the Sub-Committee were provided with an update on the latest developments of Adoption North West. The developments were in line with the Education and Adoption Act 2016 which aimed to speed up the adoption process. Oldham, together with five other local authorities and two



---

voluntary organisations had created a partnership and had successfully submitted a bid for funding. Members commented on the impact of Oldham's demographics, the number of cases, the recruitment of adopters, the implementation target, obstacles and challenges and support to members of staff.

- Improved Better Care Fund – The Sub-Committee were provided with information on the plans for the reconfiguration of the Adult Social Care Service in Oldham which reflected the integration agenda and addressed the increasing demand for health and social care services. Members commented on the gap in the number of qualified social workers, workload of staff, implications for the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), benefits for patients and residents and quality control.
- Integrated Cluster Working – the Sub-Committee were provided with an update on the development of the work arrangements for the clusters which was a key aspect of the reconfiguration and integration of the Health and Social Care system. It was hoped that this model would alleviate the extreme pressure at Accident & Emergency departments. Members received a further update on the outcome of the recent public consultation on the future model for urgent primary care in Oldham. This would be for a number of Urgent Care Hubs located around Oldham. Members commented on the definition of urgent care and communications.
- Health Check Programme – the Sub-Committee were provided with an update of the performance of the programme across Oldham. The programme was aimed to help prevent vascular disease. Health check performance targets were set nationally. Oldham had achieved targets in 2015/16 and continued to exceed it. Oldham had been recognised nationally for quality improvement in the delivery of the health checks. Members commented on health checks and the use of technology, community events to reach more people and asked if figures on the outcomes of NHS health checks could be included. The Sub-Committee expressed its support for the programme and the availability to sponsor and the possibility of the programme being linked to the Mayor's Health Living Campaign.
- Mayor's Healthy Living Campaign – the Sub-Committee received updates on the campaign and what activities had been undertaken throughout the year.
- The Health and Scrutiny Sub-Committee also convened a Task and Finish Group which looked at the review of safeguarding training.

#### 4.7.4 Motions referred to Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

Motions which had been referred to Overview and Scrutiny Board, if health related, were subsequently referred to Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee. These included:

- Making Oldham Council More Dementia Friendly - A task group of officers from the Council, CCG and other partner organisations, as well as relevant Cabinet members had been established and provided a response to the proposals to the motion. The Sub-Committee approved the response and commended it to Council.
- Air Quality Plan – members noted the action that needed to be taken at a local, Greater Manchester and national level to increase the rate of progress to keep levels to the legal limit in the future. Oldham worked in partnership with Transport for Greater Manchester and the other nine authorities to assess air pollution. A



---

National Air Quality Plan had been produced and required feasibility studies be undertaken and solutions identified. An Air Quality sub-group had been established as part of the Health and Wellbeing Board and aimed to address aspects of the GM Air Quality Plan and agreed actions were implemented locally. It was also focused on finding new ways to reduce the carbon footprint in the Borough. Members commented on reducing traffic, air quality monitoring results, the setting of air quality objectives and heavily polluted sites in Oldham. The Sub-Committee also expressed interest in supporting a campaign to reduce air pollution.

- NHS Blood and Transplant Service – work was ongoing with the NHS on how to help increase the levels of blood donation and organ donor registration in the Borough.
- HIV Testing – A programme of HIVT Awareness Training was being scheduled across Oldham with an initial focus on primary care. The Specialist Sexual Health Service was due to go live with the NHS England funded pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) HIV prevention programme.

## **5 Ways to get involved with O&S?**

- 5.1 Overview and Scrutiny Board, Performance and Value for Money Select Committee and Health Scrutiny have rolling work programmes. These can be found as part of the meeting's agendas.
- 5.2 If you are interested in attending a meeting of either the Board or Select Committee, meeting dates can be found on the website at: <https://committees.oldham.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeId=366>
- 5.3 Contact and speak to your local Councillor about issues you feel have an impact on your local community in Oldham. Overview and Scrutiny will consider issues raised by Councillors.
- 5.4 You can contact the Head of Business Intelligence on 0161 770 1559 to ask Overview and Scrutiny to consider an issue which has an impact on Oldham and local people. This could be a problem, Council service or an issue which you think the Council should take in lead in improving.

## **6 Legal Services Comments**

- 6.1 n/a

## **7. Co-operative Agenda**

- 7.1 The Annual report contains examples of work aligned to the Council's co-operative approach in relation to issues that have an impact of local communities.

## **8 Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

- 8.1 None

## **9 Equality, Community Cohesion and Crime Implications**

- 9.1 None

---

10 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

10.1 No

---

11 **Key Decision**

11.1 No

12 **Key Decision Reference**

12.1 N/A

13 **Background Papers**

13.1 None

14 **Appendices**

14.1 None