



Meeting: Well-Being Strategic Partnership Board

Date: 10 June 2010

Report Title: Overview and Scrutiny Work - Update

Report From: Cllr David Winskill

Purpose

To feed back to the Well-Being Partnership Board on the review outcomes from 2009/10.

To update the Partnership Board on the draft work programme for 2010/11.

Background

Under the Local Government Act 2000 local authorities are required to set up Overview and Scrutiny Committees. These committees are made up of non-Cabinet/Executive councillors and are proportional to the political balance in the Council.

Overview and Scrutiny Committees may commission in depth reviews into service areas and make recommendations that aim to improve services the community receives.

The role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in Haringey is to look at the services and issues which are important to the community. Scrutiny is a statutory service and key part of the Council's structure which works to ensure that services are delivered effectively, efficiently and in the best interest of the residents. It is therefore a mechanism through which transparency and public accountability may be exercised in local government.

In 2009/2010 Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee aligned themselves with the Theme Boards of the Haringey Strategic Partnership. The aim of this is to assist in building close working relationships between the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Haringey Strategic Partnership, to prevent duplication of work and provide an independent objective view of what needs to be done to improve the quality and cost effectiveness of services provided to local people.

It is anticipated that this will ensure that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissions task and finish reviews that add value to the work of the Board.

Legal/Financial Implications

Financial Implications

This report does not give rise to any immediate financial implications.

However, it should be noted that where possible all reviews will have a Value for Money aspect.

Legal Implications

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has powers to scrutinise decisions taken in the discharge of the Council's "executive" and "non-executive" functions and to make reports and recommendations to Cabinet and Full Council. This includes making reports and recommendations on matters relating to health services and other matters affecting the Borough or its inhabitants. The annual work programme for Overview and Scrutiny Committee's is a matter of local choice.

Recommendations

That the Well-Being Partnership Board notes the content of this report.

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1. Update on Task and Finish reviews from 2009/10

1.1. Support to Carers

Cllr Gina Adamou (Chair), Cllr Richard Wilson, Cllr Karen Alexander

- A number of panel meetings were held throughout the review to hear evidence from a variety of sources, including NHS Haringey, Adult Services, BEH Mental Health Trust, Leisure Services and Adult Learning. These which were very well attended, including by a number of carers.
- The panel hosted a coffee morning for carers to give them a chance to share their experiences, views and thoughts and feed into the review in an informal setting away from service providers.
- The panel also attended a lively BME Carers Support Group to gain their input and answer any questions about the review.
- The review was also discussed at a HAVCO (Haringey Association of Voluntary and Community Organisations) Well-being meeting and the Carers Partnership Board.
- A number of carers also wrote to the panel with input.

Recommendations included:

- NHS Haringey and Haringey Council jointly addressing the need for greater provision of respite/carers breaks.
- A review of the Carers Assessment processes across the partnership to ensure continuity.
- Emergency plans being in place for all carers receiving a care package.
- A review of the way information is provided to carers on changes due to take place under personalisation.
- Exploration of sharing information on carers held across statutory organisations.
- A mapping exercise of carers services including equity of access.

1.2. Engaging with Hard to Reach Communities

Cllr Gideon Bull (Chair), Cllr Ron Aitken, Cllr Gina Adamou

- For the purpose of this review the term 'hard to reach' was defined as:

“Those groups which are difficult to engage with from an organisational perspective because they do not feel empowered to do so, or due to barriers which may be overcome.”

- A wide range of organisations and individuals contributed to the review including: Bringing Unity Back Into the Community (BUBIC), Sexual Health On Call (SHOC), BME Carers, Caris Haringey, Afrikcare, Crucial Steps, North Middlesex University Hospital Trust, Whittington NHS Trust, Haringey Borough Police, LGBT Network, Haringey Council departments, HAVCO members of the public.
- The panel also went along to a Youth reparation session and had an extremely interesting conversation with young people to get their views.

Recommendations were made around:

- The development of a multi-agency consultation network and some areas of work for the network to undertake.
- Consultation training to include cultural awareness and hard to reach groups.
- The undertaking of a customer journey mapping exercise to include dual needs for example, a sex worker who has housing needs as well as needing support on drug addiction. The aim of this is to ensure that no one slips through the net due to their complex needs.
- Exploration of IT based options for sharing accessibility data across the council, for example if one service knows that a person needs communication in large print then this information should be shared with other services.

1.3. Breast Screening Services

Cllr David Winskill (chair), Cllr Karen Alexander, Cllr Sarah Beynon, Cllr Gideon Bull

- Breast cancer is one of the biggest causes of cancer among women in the UK and a major cause of adult female mortality.
- The National Breast Screening Programme (NBSP) screens nearly 2 million women each year and helps to detect breast cancer earlier, which has helped to improve treatment options and survival rate for those women diagnosed. The NBSP saves about 1,400 lives each year.
- As a result of the temporary suspension of the North London Breast Screening Service, fewer women in Haringey are screened every three years than in many other boroughs. Furthermore, just over half (55%) of women actually take up invites to breast screen in Haringey. There is a concern that poor uptake may exacerbate local health inequalities.
- This scrutiny review aimed to assess how local uptake rates could be improved. To help form recommendations, the panel:
 - talked to local commissioners and service providers
 - heard evidence from specialist screening agencies
 - consulted local women who had used the breast screening service
 - visited the local breast screening service.
- The panel found that there are a number of issues which affected screening uptake:
 - operational issues: location of clinics, appointment times, availability of out of hours services
 - structural issues: how screening lists are developed, operation of call and recall system
 - socio-demographic issues: age, ethnicity, social deprivation
 - personal attitudes: personal anxiety, perceptions of personal risk
- The panel identified some preliminary work (i.e. Health Trainers project & the Breast Screening Action Plan) but noted that this had yet to be fully implemented. The panel felt that concerted action would be necessary at a number of levels to help improve screening uptake.
- The Panel made a number of recommendations in three key areas to help improve screening uptake:
 - improved accessibility of breast screening clinics
 - greater involvement of primary care in the breast screening process
 - the need to develop more localised public health information and awareness for breast cancer

1.4. Next Steps

- The Support to Carers and Engaging with Hard to reach communities reviews were discussed at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee March 2010 and the recommendations approved.
- The Cabinet is due to respond to the recommendations on 15th June 2010.

- The Breast Screening review is due to be considered at Overview and Scrutiny on 5th July 2010. Following this NHS Haringey will consider and respond to the recommendations from the review.

2. 2010/2011 work programme

- The Overview and Scrutiny Committee are in the process of agreeing their work programme for the next year. The Committee plans to carry out one 'Task and Finish' review linked to each of the Partnership Theme Boards.
- The Committee recently met informally to discuss topics proposed for review and to short-list two topics per Theme Board area. The reviews currently being considered linked to the Well-Being Partnership Board are:
 - Poly-systems – a whole system approach
 - Joint local commissioning of services
- The Lead Scrutiny Member for Well-Being is due to meet with relevant officers from the partnership to further consider these options.
- As this is an on-going process, the Lead Scrutiny Member will be able to give a verbal update on progress and other areas linked to the Well-Being Partnership Board which will form part of the Overview and Scrutiny work programme for 2010/11.
- The Overview and Scrutiny Committee expects to finalise and commission its work programme at the first Committee meeting, due to be held in early July 2010.
- A copy of this work programme will then be circulated to the Board Members.