

**Scrutiny Peer Review 2017**

Local Authority Caerphilly

Review Team from

Newport and Monmouthshire

Facilitated by WLGA

**Meeting of Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Committee****A. Scrutiny Environment****1. Scrutiny has a clearly defined and valued role in the council's improvement arrangements (based upon the observation of this meeting)**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
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## Comments

Some evidence of this was seen with regard to the item on food safety, but the other items, on this occasion, did not provide evidence that Scrutiny had a clear and valued role in improvement arrangements. There was clearly a commitment from members to attend and mostly to participate in the meeting.

**2. Scrutiny has the dedicated support it needs from officers (based upon the observation of this meeting)**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
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## Comments

Much evidence of support was seen from both dedicated scrutiny support officers and other officers at a senior level both at the meeting and in the preparation of information for the committee.

**3. Scrutiny members appear to have effective training and development opportunities, evidenced through their questioning, listening and analysis skills and understanding of the subject under scrutiny**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
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## Comments

Some evidence was seen of members asking relevant and constructive questions. In some cases it was not always clear what the purpose of asking the questions was and sometimes comments were made rather than asking questions.

**Conclusion: please consider which of the following applies:**

Arrangements are hindering improvement	Arrangements are partly supporting improvement	Arrangements are positively supporting improvement	Arrangements are playing a significant role in supporting improvement
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**B. Scrutiny Practice****1. Scrutiny takes into account the views of the public, partners and regulators, balancing the prioritisation of community concerns against issues of strategic risk/importance**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
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## Comments

This was not observed at the meeting. It was interesting to have young people presenting. Although the committee did not appear to respond to their requests for feedback. In other meetings, there might be opportunities to question the Health Board.

**2. Overview and scrutiny meetings, activities and work programmes are well-planned (based on observation of this meeting)**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
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## Comments

This was not evidenced at the meeting, it was not clear to the observers why items were on the agenda, some appeared to be for "consideration" without clear outcomes. No questioning strategy was evidenced.

**3. Overview and scrutiny meetings and activities are chaired effectively**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
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## Comments

The chair conducted a pre meeting, made people feel welcome, introduced those present and effectively summarised contributions. However no evidence was seen at this meeting of the chair clarifying the purpose of agenda items and encouraging the committee to achieve outcomes.

**4. Overview and scrutiny meetings demonstrate through their activities the best use of the resources available**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
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## Comments

The observers noted that time was wasted, particularly officer time, they could have attended for their agenda items only. Opportunities to make recommendations and challenge witnesses were also not taken.

**5. Scrutiny operates non-politically and deals effectively with sensitive political issues, tension and conflict**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
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## Comments

No evidence was seen of the committee acting politically.

**6. Scrutiny builds trust and good relationships with a wide variety of internal and external stakeholders (based on observation of this meeting)**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
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## Comments

There were no opportunities to see this at the meeting.

**Conclusion: please consider which of the following applies:**

Arrangements are hindering improvement	Arrangements are partly supporting improvement	Arrangements are positively supporting improvement	Arrangements are playing a significant role in supporting improvement
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C. Impact of Scrutiny				
<b>1. Scrutiny engages in evidence based challenge of decision makers (based on observation of this meeting)</b>				
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
Comments				
There was no evidence of questioning or challenge of Cabinet members at this meeting although opportunities were available.				
<b>2. Scrutiny engages in evidence based challenge of service providers (based on observation of this meeting)</b>				
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
Comments				
This was evidenced in the food standards agency audit.				
<b>3. Scrutiny provides viable and well evidenced solutions to recognised problems (based on observation of this meeting)</b>				
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
Comments				
This was not evidenced at the meeting.				
<b>4. Non-executive members provide an evidence based check and balance to Executive decision making</b>				
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
Comments				
Some questions were asked about policy throughout the meeting.				
<b>5. Decision makers give public account for themselves at scrutiny committees for their portfolio responsibilities</b>				
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
Comments				
Cabinet members provided a verbal update and were available for challenge although this opportunity was not taken on this occasion.				
<b>6. Overview and scrutiny enables the 'voice' of local people and communities across the area to be heard as part of decision and policy-making processes</b>				
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
Comments				
This was not evidenced at this meeting.				
<b>Conclusion: please consider which of the following applies:</b>				
Arrangements are hindering improvement	Arrangements are partly supporting improvement	Arrangements are positively supporting improvement	Arrangements are playing a significant role in supporting improvement	