



HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 5TH MAY 2015

SUBJECT: SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TASK & FINISH GROUPS

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek members views on the possibility of setting up task & finish groups for scrutiny members to facilitate an in depth examination of one or two specific areas with a view to bringing reports back to Health, Social Care & Wellbeing Scrutiny committee for endorsement of the appropriate recommendations.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Members will be aware of the facility whereby they can become involved with task and finish groups on specific topics agreed by officers with scrutiny members. These groups allow a more in depth examination of specific areas than would normally be possible at a scrutiny committee meeting.
- 2.2 This reports identifies several potential areas for more detailed examination and seeks members' views on their preferences for relevant topics.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The potential topics detailed below will assist with in depth examination of forthcoming legislative issues as well as areas to be considered within the Medium Term Financial Plan.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 As previously stated, task and finish groups allow members to examine specific areas in greater depth than would normally be possible at a scrutiny meeting. The concept requires members to meet on two or three occasions, supported by relevant officers, to consider a topic on which they then create a report for consideration by the scrutiny committee as a whole.
- 4.2 Some members may recall a particularly successful task and finish group on charging for non residential services that met a few years ago which was the catalyst for Cabinet agreeing changes to the charging policy for the authority.
- 4.3 Discussions amongst officers and with the chair of the scrutiny committee have identified the following areas as possible topics for task and finish groups

Social Services

- Corporate safeguarding role
- Performance
- Changes to the delivery of domiciliary care (linked to MTFP proposals)

Public Protection

- Domestic Violence
- Meals On Wheels
- Littering & dog fouling

It should be noted that this is not meant to be a definitive list and if Members have specific topics they wish to be considered then these can be put forward on the evening of the meeting.

- 4.4 Given the amount of work required in a relatively short piece of time it is recommended that no more than one or two task and finish groups operate at any time. Any group will need to set the timeframes for its work carefully and the subsequent reports will need to be built into the forward work programme of the scrutiny committee.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report. Equality impact assessments will be undertaken in respect of any specific proposals that arise from any task and finish groups.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report. Any financial implications arising from the work of the task and finish groups will be highlighted in the reports that follow the work of the groups.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no specific personnel implications arising from this report. Any personnel implications arising from the work of the task and finish groups will be highlighted in the reports that follow the work of the groups.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 All comments from consultations have been factored into this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Members are asked to consider whether they wish to convene task and finish groups and to identify the specific topics they would like to be covered.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 Feedback from members will allow officers to begin the work around convening the groups and producing the relevant supporting materials.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Local Government Act 2000.

Author: Dave Street, Corporate Director Social Services
Consultees: Social Services Senior Management Team
Councillor Robin Woodyatt, Cabinet Member
Cath Forbes-Thompson, Scrutiny Research Officer