

Sutton Council

Scrutiny Annual Report 2015/16

INTRODUCTION.

Overview and introduction by Vice Chair of Scrutiny Committee.

I am pleased to present this annual report covering the work of Sutton's Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2015/16. The committee held public meetings on 4 occasions over this period and conducted other work outside of the committee setting. The relevant appointed members also participated in the work of the sub-regional South West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Cllr Pathumal Ali

Vice Chair Sutton Scrutiny Committee.

THE WORK OF SUTTON'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE.

Sutton's single Scrutiny Committee is formally established to undertake the council's statutory scrutiny responsibilities in respect of

- Health
- Crime and Disorder
- Flood Risk Management.

The Committee held 4 public meetings during the 2015/16 municipal year.

Members also participated in joint scrutiny arrangements where Sutton has an interest through the standing South West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its sub committee looking at inpatient mental health services in South West London.

The following paragraphs set out more detail in terms of the specific work undertaken.

Flood risk management.

The committee continued to maintain oversight of work to prepare for the coming winter and any possible flooding events, and progress towards delivering the Action Plan which supports the Flood Risk Management Strategy.

Winter 2015/16 turned out to be benign with only a small number of blocked gullies, which were quickly cleared, but no serious flooding or flooding of properties.

Members recognised the value of working with Local Committees in order to secure a better understanding of any local flooding issues and welcomed that documents such as flood plans and the FRM strategy would be made available for the local committees.

For committee discussion see meetings of 14 October 2015 and 20 January 2016. Links to webpages can be found at the end of this document.

Consultation Task and Finish investigation.

A small task and finish group was established to conduct a brief investigation into the arrangements for undertaking consultations and the results arising from them.

Members held two evidence gathering sessions where they heard from officers responsible for the corporate consultation hub, planning consultation and the 'Sutton 2031' consultation (including proposals for development of the Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) at the Sutton hospital site).

A final report and recommendations are being prepared by the task and finish group before being considered by the full Scrutiny Committee. The timeline for the concluding part of this work means that it will be completed during the committee's 2016/17 cycle.

For committee discussion see meeting of 13 April 2016. When completed, the final report will be available on the scrutiny@sutton webpage. Links to webpages can be found at the end of this document.

Crime and Disorder.

The committee agreed to prioritise some of its capacity in order to undertake an investigation into the level and quality of support which is available locally for victims of crime.

Following discussion about the feasible scope of the investigation, members agreed to focus on the following key themes:

- 1) To find out how support to victims of crime is provided e.g. the organisations providing support, how victims can access this kind of help and how well this support is received.
- 2) What the council and its partners could do to either deliver support to victims of crime or support agencies who provide that support
- 3) To consider young people and their experience of being a victim of crime locally.

The committee received background briefing reports from the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and the Safer Sutton Partnership Service's (SSPS) Integrated Victim Support Service explaining how support for victims of crime is provided across London through the independent charity Victim Support and supported at a local level through bodies such as SSPS.

The SSPS Integrated Victim Support Projects Manager also attended the committee's meeting on 13 April in order to provide further information and answer questions from members. He explained about the consultation and work undertaken to prepare a strategic needs assessment for high risk and vulnerable victims of crime in Sutton.

In order to inform the investigation further, members asked to be provided with more information about services available specifically to young victims of crime, and information on the outcomes following referrals to Victim Support.

The investigation will carry over into the next committee cycle.

For committee discussion see meetings of 14 October 2015 and 13 April 2016. Links to webpages can be found at the end of this document.

Towards the end of 2015, the committee was made aware of some concerns arising from proposals to make changes to the urogynaecology service provided at the SGUH Trust. It became clear that those plans had resulted in some dissatisfaction amongst a number of clinicians and patients and that the Trust's initial approach to consultation had been insufficient, as the Trust had dealt exclusively with the local Wandsworth CCG and scrutiny panel, rather than opening discussions to other affected boroughs.

The committee took evidence from senior representatives from the Trust, a senior clinician, and a small deputation of concerned patients. Committee members were concerned to hear that, as well as the issues surrounding the limited initial consultation (which had subsequently been extended), there were also apparent issues regarding the nature and quality of the service provided - particularly for potentially vulnerable young people.

As a result of the committee's concerns, the Trust did subsequently provide full written assurance in terms of the Paediatric and Adolescent Gynaecology services.

The committee also investigated the possibility of escalating the matter by making a referral to the Secretary of State but, after consideration, decided that a more appropriate approach would be to pursue the matter by way of a letter to the Trust Chief Executive jointly with the 2 other concerned scrutiny committees at Kingston and Merton.

As a result of these interventions, the Trust board agreed to undertake further discussions with commissioners about their plans. These have not been concluded at the time of preparing this report.

For committee discussion see meeting of 20 January 2016 and 13 April 2016.

Links to webpages can be found at the end of this document.

Epsom & St Helier Trust

The committee maintained its ongoing oversight of the Trust and took the opportunity to receive regular updates from the Trust Chief Executive about the clinical and financial performance over the year. The discussions which took place at the committee meetings were supplemented by the Chair's regular attendance at the monthly Trust Board meetings.

Committee members continued to ask questions about the Trust's financial position, particularly as pressures resulted in an increasing deficit approaching the end of the financial year.

Another major theme which the committee sought to pursue during the year was the proposals contained in the Trust's Estates Strategy. This document (and an accompanying pre-consultation discussion) considered the difficulties arising from the poor state of the Trust's estate and buildings and formed part of an exercise to generate and secure widespread agreement on how to prioritise and secure a viable future for the Trust.

Members were also able to question senior colleagues from NHS Sutton Clinical Commissioning Group about their views on the Estates Strategy and hear how these plans fit with their ambitions locally and across SW London.

The committee responded to these early-form ideas both through its contribution at committee meeting discussions and by making a formal written response to the Trust's web-based questionnaire.

Members also sought to understand the changing position locally and across the SW London region following the closure of the Better Services Better Value (BSBV) programme and with it the apparent loss of Outline Business Case approval for £219M of improvement funding for the hospitals. The history of a significant number of reviews of the Trust over the recent past (the Trust Chief Executive told the committee he had calculated this as 16 reviews over the last 16 years) was a major driver for the development of the 'Estates Strategy' approach. Committee members were equally as concerned at this and continued to positively challenge and support the Trust.

For committee discussion see meetings of 8 July 2015, 14 October 2015, 20 January 2016 and 13 April 2016. Links to webpages can be found at the end of this document.

NHS Sutton Clinical Commissioning Group and Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection of GP Practices.

The committee took evidence from NHS Sutton CCG about their work with regard to those local GP practices which had not performed well during recent CQC inspections.

Senior colleagues from the CCG explained the work undertaken by the CQC which resulted in 2 of the 7 practices which were inspected receiving a categorisation of 'inadequate'. Both practices have received support from the CCG and NHS London and were making progress on their improvement plans. The CCG also clarified that practices had been prioritised for inspections based on existing concerns about performance (as well as other factors), and that therefore ratings of these initial practices would not necessarily be reflective of the wider picture in the Borough.

The CCG also explained that they were in the process of taking on full delegated responsibility for primary medical services from NHS England with effect from 1 April 2016.

For committee discussion see meetings of 8 July 2015 and 20 January 2016. Links to webpages can be found at the end of this document.

Governance review and role of scrutiny committee.

Members of the committee contributed to the discussion about the governance review and the proposed changes to the scrutiny function and ways of working. These ideas would strengthen the position of the Scrutiny Committee to hold others to account, extending its remit to include council services. By making the provision for a Scrutiny Committee annual report to council the proposed changes would also encourage the committee to hold itself to account.

Members welcomed the plans, which were subsequently agreed by Council in November 2015 and will form the basis of the scrutiny committee's approach from the 2016/17 cycle onwards.

For committee discussion see meetings of 14 October 2015 and 20 January 2016. . Links to webpages can be found at the end of this document.

JOINT WORK WITH OTHER COUNCILS' SCRUTINY FUNCTIONS.

Sutton's appointed members continued to participate in a number of Joint Health Scrutiny committees over the 2015/16 year.

The South West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is a joint standing committee formed with representation from six London Boroughs: Croydon, Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Sutton and Wandsworth. Its purpose is to respond to changes in the provision of health and health consultations which affect more than one London Borough in the South West London area.

The JHOSC set up a sub-committee to look at the plans for and public consultation on changes to inpatient mental health services in South West London. This committee contributed to the development of a successful public consultation and has overseen progress towards the agreement of a final plan which has seen an increase in the number of in-patient beds and greater clarity on the enhancement of

community based services across the sub-region (when compared with the original proposals).

For committee discussion of the South West London Joint Scrutiny Sub-Committee (In-Patient Mental Health Services) see meetings 1 December 2015 and 15 March 2016 via link:

<https://moderngov.sutton.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=569&Year=0>

The main JHOSC standing committee met on only one occasion during this cycle as work to progress the preparation of proposals for the re-organisation of acute health services across South West London were effectively put on hold. The committee did receive a brief update and presentation from South West London Collaborative Commissioning (SWLCC) at its meeting on 1 December 2015.

For committee discussion of the South West London Joint Health Overview Scrutiny Committee see meeting 1 December 2015 via link:

<https://moderngov.sutton.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=486&Year=0>

Sutton Scrutiny Committee meeting agendas packs and minutes

8 July 2015

<https://moderngov.sutton.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=443&MId=4064&Ver=4>

14 October 2015

<https://moderngov.sutton.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=443&MId=4065&Ver=4>

20 January 2016

<https://moderngov.sutton.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=443&MId=4066&Ver=4>

13 April 2016

<https://moderngov.sutton.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=443&MId=4067&Ver=4>

Scrutiny@Sutton webpage

https://www.sutton.gov.uk/info/200474/democracy_and_voting/1175/scrutiny

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