

## **SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT PANEL**

### **Updates and Suggested Topics for Review for the themed scrutiny panels**

#### **January 2019 to end of this Municipal Year**

#### **Housing & Social Care Scrutiny Panel (HSC)**

**Update** The Housing & Social Care Scrutiny Panel signed off its review of supported accommodation on 26 October 2018.

#### **Suggested Topics for Review**

The Housing & Social Care Scrutiny Panel, chaired by Councillor Luke Stubbs has put forward the following topics for review:-

1. Review of the provision of temporary accommodation.
2. Review of the experiences gathered after decantation of residents from tower blocks

The Chair advised that It was the consensus view of the panel that the officer recommended topics (to review hospital discharges and the impact of the Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) would only add limited value given developments already taking place in those areas. However members are interested in the HRA and while it is too soon to assess its implications and evaluate the council's response to it, the provision of temporary accommodation is clearly central to it. It is also an area experiencing significant cost pressures and members felt that a review could prove beneficial.

The decanting of residents from Horatia and Leamington Houses has been a major project and members recognise that evaluation work will take place at appropriate points in the process and that it is likely to be a one-off event. However it was also felt that given its importance, a short review would be useful in building public trust and that it would provide a platform for members to provide challenge to officers.

Scrutiny Management Panel is therefore asked to consider allocating the above topics in the priority order shown.

#### **Education Children & Young Persons' Scrutiny Panel (ECYP)**

**Update** The ECYP signed off its report into School Attendance and Reduced Timetables in Portsmouth on 7 December 2018.

The Panel carried out this review between November 2017 and November 2018. The aim of the review was to understand the main reasons for school absence and how children on part time timetables are supported to resume full time attendance as soon as possible. The review also considered elective home education, which has doubled over the last few years, and looked into the reasons why parents are choosing to home educate their children and how their progress can be safely monitored.

The panel recognised the good work that has been taking place in the city to support children and young people and noted that the school attendance is not solely the responsibility of schools but all agencies.

### **Suggested Topics for Review**

It was agreed that the Panel would put forward the following topic to Scrutiny Management Panel

1. Review into **Children with Disabilities** to focus particularly on
  - **Out of city placements** - how effective are our commissioning arrangements, are we getting the right provision and good value, and are the contributions from education, social care and health appropriate?
  - **Use of Beechside** - how responsive is the short breaks respite care provision and how helpful is it to parents of children with disabilities?

The provision of education for disabled children in the City would be of value to both the Panel and the Council. This was an area that had been identified as requiring improvement by Ofsted. It would also provide an opportunity to undertake a review that would integrate with the Council's Health partners.

Scrutiny Management Panel is therefore asked to consider allocating the above topic to the ECYP Scrutiny Panel.

### **Economic Development Culture & Leisure Scrutiny Panel (EDCL)**

#### **Update**

This municipal year the EDCL Scrutiny Panel has been continuing with its **review of the International Port** (which had just been started in the previous municipal year). The newly constituted panel visited the International Port informally in August, before formal meetings resumed in October 2018. As well as hearing from the Port Manager Mike Sellers and some of his management team, the panel has heard from Richard Lee regarding Regulatory Services at Portsmouth International Port (PIP) and Adam Shepherd and Debbie Dunne from Children's Social Care regarding unaccompanied minors who come through the port. The January meeting looked at links with tourism in the city and PIP's business plans. It is anticipated that in February the plans surrounding Brexit and its implications can be discussed before the Port Manager will be dealing with the operational ramifications of this.

Scrutiny Management Panel is asked to note this update.

### **Transport Environment & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel (TECS)**

#### **Update**

Scrutiny Management Panel is asked to note that this Panel is moving towards completion of its review "**General parking issues in Portsmouth with a view to considering alternative strategies**".