

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HOUSING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 25

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: ASCHOSC Panel Options
Date of Meeting: 9 September 2010
Report of: Acting Director of Strategy and Governance
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Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the power to establish scrutiny panels to undertake short, focused reviews on specific issues. During July consultation was undertaken with residents, partners and Members as to their priorities for scrutiny reviews during 2010/11. This report sets out the results of this consultation as relevant to ASCHOSC.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the ASCHOSC:

- (1) Notes the results of the consultation
- (2) Decides upon topics for future scrutiny panels based upon appendix 1

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 Public consultation on possible scrutiny panel topics ran during the course of July with a total 69 separate suggestions for scrutiny topics received. The consultation was promoted through a number of means:

1. All Members of the council were invited to submit ideas
2. All LSP themed partnerships were written to and scrutiny officers attended a number of partnership meetings
3. Citynews and the Argus both carried articles promoting the consultation
4. A press release was issued and promoted on Facebook and Twitter
5. Information was be added to the Consultation Portal at <http://consult.brighton-hove.gov.uk/portal>

- 3.2 Preliminary research has been undertaken to see which suggestions are suitable topics for scrutiny. This has been based on criteria agreed previously at OSC and outlined below:
- Length of review – Topics need to be achievable within 3-4 meetings, or undertaken as Select Committees in around 6 meetings.
 - Relevance to Brighton and Hove – The focus needs to be a local issue, or at least an issue that is within the decision making power of a local organisation.
 - Policy Context – What is the policy/strategy development cycle, are changes expected to legislation, or has a local strategy just been finalised?
 - Alignment to LSP and Council priorities – Reviews of issues identified as key to improving the lives of residents are by definition the best use of scrutiny resources.
 - Highlighted as an issue within performance regimes – Is the issue in question something that has been shown as requiring improvement during performance monitoring? With limited resources scrutiny should avoid reviewing issues which the council and partners are seen as doing well.
 - Avoiding duplication with existing work-streams – If a suggestion would replicate work already ongoing there is limited utility in also scrutinising it.
 - What is the outcome a scrutiny review could achieve? Will the review be able to add value to the issue?
- 3.4 Appendix 1 outlines all of the topics put forward that fall within the remit of ASCHOSC. For the topics suggested the scrutiny team has undertaken some preliminary scoping.
- 3.5 ASCHOSC is already running a scrutiny panel on services for adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorders and subject to decisions made at other scrutiny committees any additional panel will have to wait for this panel to end. However officers can usefully undertake preparatory work once a panel topic is identified therefore a decision on a future panel would be timely.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 This report summarises the consultation responses received from residents, Members, officers and partner organisations. Consultation was undertaken throughout July.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 There are no financial implications as all panel work will be undertaken within the existing resource envelope allocated to scrutiny.

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The recommendations at 2.1 is consistent with the statutory framework for overview and scrutiny committees under section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000.

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 In undertaking detailed scoping work on panels equality implications will be addressed. The consultation as a whole has highlighted some equality issues that can be taken forward.

Sustainability Implications:
5.4 There are no direct implications.

Crime & Disorder Implications:
5.5 There are no direct implications.

Risk & Opportunity Management Implications:
5.6 The consultation exercise was undertaken to ensure that scrutiny resources are focused on the most appropriate areas. There is an opportunity for scrutiny to influence some of the key issues facing the city.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:
5.7 An annual work programme for scrutiny reviews should enable the scrutiny function to respond to those issues that affect the city as a whole and take a more active role in place-shaping.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Panel scoping information

Documents in Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

1. The Community Engagement Framework
2. Report to March OSC

