

Sutton Council

Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18

Introduction

Overview and introduction by the Chair of Scrutiny Committee.

I am pleased to present this annual report covering the work of Sutton's Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2017/18.

Following the local elections in May 2018, I am newly appointed to the role of Chair. The Scrutiny Committee was re-established as a committee with membership comprising 6 majority, 3 opposition and 1 independent members. A high proportion of the membership comprised Councillors who are new to the Scrutiny function and as Chair of Scrutiny Committee I am looking forward to working with all members to learn, develop and deliver high quality scrutiny together.

The Committee's agenda will continue to focus on our statutory obligations - Health, crime and disorder, flood risk management. With my background in health services, I feel the committee will be well placed to assist the health care sector. We will build upon our strong relationship with Healthwatch, Epsom & St Helier Trust and other partners.

Councillor Colin Stears

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 and also to look at matters relating to Sutton Council's services which have been referred for possible consideration by the Chairs of standing and local committees.

Members also participate in joint scrutiny arrangements where Sutton has an interest through the standing South West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. As of May 2018 the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee became the South West London and Surrey County Council Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SWL&SCC JHOSC).

The committee held three standard meetings during the 2017/18 municipal year and an additional meeting to look at the work of the scrutiny Task and Finish Group on the new waste collection service on 4 October 2017. The committee usually holds four public meetings every cycle.

The following paragraphs set out more detail of the specific work undertaken in 2017/18.

Task & finish group - new waste collection service

A task and finish group was set up to look at the preparations for and the initial implementation of the new waste collection service introduced across Sutton in April 2017. The report from the task and finish group gave 27 recommendations for the Scrutiny committee to consider. The recommendations arising from the meeting were to be submitted to Environment and Neighbourhood Committee to consider.

The Committee explored the preparations made for the introduction of the new service and the issues that occurred. It looked at the collaborative working between the Council, South London Waste Partnership and its partner Veolia for the new recycling and rubbish collection service and the response to the initial service problems. The committee discussed strategies that the council could consider when implementing a new service and how Sutton can prepare for situations such as this in the future.

The meeting explored the preparations made for the introduction of the new service and looked at issues that could have been avoided before implementation. The committee discussed systems that should have been in place to minimise disruption, briefing for members before a service is introduced and the impact for residents. The issues with ICT systems were looked at and it was highlighted that other councils could learn from those lessons.

The committee agreed the recommendations and agreed arrangements for the final report.

For committee discussions please see meeting of 4 October 2017.

St Raphael's Hospice - Buddies

During the last cycle, members of the Scrutiny Committee put themselves forward to 'buddy-up' with some of the key local health partners so that the committee can enhance its knowledge and build stronger relationships. An example of this role is that a Committee member went to visit a hospice and met with the CEO who introduced them to the site and the staff, including two volunteers. The member was given a detailed history of the hospice and the pressures that it was under. This information was feedback at Committee meeting giving members in depth information about the current situation at the hospice.

CHAIR'S Q&A

The committee continued to conduct its Chair's Q&A sessions, hearing from Councillor Colin Stears in his role as Chair of Adult Social Services and Health. Councillor Jayne McCoy attended the committee to respond to questions in her role as Chair of Housing, Economy and Business Committee.

For questions and answers see committee notes of 7 February 2018 and 18 October 2017.

Crime and disorder

The committee had the opportunity to welcome the new Borough Commander, Robyn Williams. She highlighted her priorities as Borough Commander in Sutton, which were strong partnerships to collectively keep Sutton safe, safeguarding, and the development of her staff. Commander Williams added that she would like to see evidence-based practice, as a fan of innovation and technology, particularly where it could assist with communication and the prevention of crime. The key crime priorities identified were burglary, domestic violence, weapons and knives.

The Committee looked at the 'One Met Model' on local crime and policing, and looked at the implications for the London Borough of Sutton. It was proposed that the 32 borough model would be condensed to 12 Basic Command Units (BCU) made up of two or three boroughs. Sutton police would come together with Bromley and Croydon police to form 1 of 12 Basic Command Units (BCU). BCUs will be expected to deliver policing functions such as neighbourhoods, emergency response, CID and safeguarding. Each would be led by a chief superintendent who will be the BCU Commander.

For committee discussion see meetings of 18 October 2017 and 7 February 2018. Links to web pages can be found at the end of this document.

Mopac: feedback on public consultation on the public access and engagement strategy

The chair of the committee enquired if there had been any objections, to the recent public consultation on the Public Access and Engagement Strategy, which sought to close Worcester Park counter, Crosspoint, and Sutton Arena.

The consultation closed on 6 October 2017 and updates were yet to be received. For committee discussions see notes of 18 October 2017.

Epsom & St Helier Trust

The committee maintained its ongoing oversight of the Trust and received regular updates from the Trust Chief Executive about the clinical and financial performance over the year. Daniel Elkeles, Chief Executive of Epsom and St Helier NHS Trust attended the Committee to give updates regarding performance, the estates review and progress on the the recent CQC inspection action plan.

The committee stated that they would like to look at 2 key issues based on the Trust's statement of actions for their 'Priorities for Quality Improvement 2017/18' at each meeting as well as a general overview of the main highlights and challenges.

The committee questioned Mr Elkeles about the engagement on the future of Epsom and St Helier. Clarity was sought regarding what parts of the land at the Sutton Hospital and St Helier sites were being considered for development. Updates were provided on the Epsom & St Helier 2020-2030 estate 'Involvement' document .

For committee discussion see meetings of 18 October 2017 and 12 July 2017. Links to web pages can be found at the end of this document.

NHS Sutton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

Dr Chris Elliott (Chief Clinical officer at Sutton CCG) gave a presentation to the committee on the South West London Sustainability and Transformation Plan. Following the presentation questions were raised by members regarding GP surgeries in Worcester Park.

A presentation was given on Primary Care Strategy and the Central Sutton Health Centre development. Following the presentation, discussion took place around breaking the culture of people wanting to see a specific GP. The issue of recruiting and retaining GP was also discussed.

Sutton CCG sought the views of Scrutiny Committee to inform their response to the NHS England consultation. Members had the opportunity to ask questions about the information in the report and a link was available online on the NHS Sutton CCG website for stakeholders to participate in the consultation.

St George's Mental Health Trust

David Bradley (Chief Executive, St George's NHS Mental Health Trust) and Dr Mark Potter (Medical Director, St George's NHS Mental Health Trust) attended the committee meeting to present the progress report for the South West London and St George's Mental Health Trust. Questions were raised by members about the impact the new allocation of beds by need rather than by borough would have on Sutton residents. There has been a move to a new service line management structure and members enquired if there has been any issues or difficulties since the implementation. Questions were raised regarding trends in mental health and if they are up or down in comparison to previous years. Projections for the future and the number of beds needed were raised and members were informed that there was space for another ward that could be used if necessary in the future.

For committee discussion see meeting of 18 October 2017.

Healthwatch

The committee continued its relationship with Sutton Healthwatch in a positive way and was able to gain insight from the reports they produced, such as 'Inpatient Care Report'. The committee heard that the report resulted in Epsom and St Helier NHS Trust (ESTH) hosting an event with Sutton Healthwatch, which helped to maintain their relationship and demonstrate that they valued their work and intended to take on the recommendations. Healthwatch Sutton have been engaging with residents to obtain their views on health services within Sutton and to provide an update on the organisation's work. Members had the opportunity to ask questions regarding the findings from the report.

David Williams, Chair of Healthwatch Sutton, attended committee meeting to give members an update regarding topics such as an issue with mental health prevalence in young people. Healthwatch said that they would be working with the CCG and the Trust to try to understand why people attend A&E as opposed to other pathways eg GP, pharmacy. The committee continues to benefit from the work carried out by Healthwatch.

For committee discussions, see meetings of 12 July 2017 and 18 October 2017.

Flood risk management

The committee received the annual report on the Flood Risk Management Strategy action plan. Discussions took place and questions were raised about the partnership working with Veolia to minimise flood risks. Members heard that it was difficult to identify where flooding comes from so a strategy was in place to identify who is best to engage with in order to prevent the issues. Members asked if gullies will be cleaned as frequently following the commissioning of road sweeping to Veolia, in particular the Wallington underpass which is known to flood.

For committee discussions, see meeting of 18 October 2017. Links to web pages can be found at the end of this document.

JOINT WORK WITH OTHER COUNCILS' SCRUTINY FUNCTIONS.

Sutton's appointed members continued to participate in the Joint Health Scrutiny committee over the 2017/18 year.

South West London joint Health Overview and Scrutiny committee (SWL JHOSC) held two meetings during the 2017/18 cycle. This comprises the six South West London boroughs which were Croydon, Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Sutton, Wandsworth. Members heard about the South West London five year forward plan which was discussed and officers in attendance gave information about the Local Transformation Boards (LTB)s that had been set up and were starting to operate. The committee heard that the LTBs would work in partnership to make the healthcare system sustainable and Epsom & St Helier Trust had recently started an engagement process and a consultation with details to follow towards the end of 2018. Areas where the joint delivery of care improves services were highlighted and the Sutton 'Red Bag' hospital transfer pathway was given as an example which had sped up the discharge of patients from hospital.

An update was given to the committee in regards to South West London Health and Care Partnership. Local Transformation Board (LTBs) would produce local health and care plans with local authorities and wider partners. They would look to address financial challenges and meet local health and care needs through a partnership approach. The refreshed Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) would focus on prevention and early intervention. Discussions included making children's mental health a priority and the current position of hospitals across each borough.

For committee discussions, see the meetings of 17 July 2017 and 13 December 2017.

A new South West London and Surrey County Council Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

A South West London and Surrey County Council Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SWL&SCC JHOSC) was established on 26 June 2018 for a 4 year period. This is a joint standing committee with representation from six London Boroughs and Surrey County Council (Croydon, Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Sutton, Wandsworth and Surrey County Council). Its purpose is to respond to changes in the provision of health and health consultations which affect more than one constituent area.

Sutton Scrutiny Committee meeting agendas packs and minutes

12 July 2017

<https://moderngov.sutton.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=443&MId=4331&Ver=4>

4 October 2017

<https://moderngov.sutton.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=443&MId=4741&Ver=4>

18 October 2017

<https://moderngov.sutton.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=443&MId=4593&Ver=4>

7 February 2018

<https://moderngov.sutton.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=443&MId=4593&Ver=4>

South West London joint Health Overview and Scrutiny committee (SWL JHOSC)

17 July 2017

<https://cabnet.richmond.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=602&MId=4238>

13 December 2017

<https://cabnet.richmond.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=602&MId=4319&Ver=4>

Scrutiny@Sutton webpage

https://www.sutton.gov.uk/info/200644/councillors_the_mayor_mps_meps_and_committees/1175/scrutiny_committee/1

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