

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCRUTINY AND STRATEGIC OVERVIEW COMMITTEE



Cllr Steve Hollands

3 October 2012 – 22 November 2012

1. Recent Scrutiny Committee Meetings

- 1.1 This report provides an account of Scrutiny activity carried out by the following committees between 3 October and 22 November 2012:
- The Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee
 - The Health, Social and Care and Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee
 - The Better Services Better Value Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
 - The South-West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on NHS Croydon finances

2 Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee

- 2.1 At their 5 October meeting, the committee considered the call-in of the Upper Norwood Joint Library Cabinet decision. The meeting was well attended by the public, and several community groups contributed to the debate. Discussions did not lead to any recommendations to Cabinet.
- 2.2 At their 6 November meeting, the committee received a presentation from the police and were advised of the proposed policing model for the borough, which was undergoing consultation. The proposals are to close counters that currently receive very low footfall so that officers can be freed up to spend more time in the community. Members identified the need to ensure that officers were available at various times throughout the day to accommodate residents' different shift patterns and lifestyles.
- 2.3 Officers representing the Community Safety Partnership were also in attendance and presented the key elements of the Partnership's strategy for 2013. The committee considered the impact of reduced funding on the work of the Police and the Council to improve community safety. Officers explained that new ways of working were being identified to ensure that performance was not affected. For example, partner agencies were working together to deliver preventative and early intervention work in a more efficient way.

- 2.4 The 15 January 2013 meeting will be held jointly with members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee and focus on the Council's budget.

3 Health Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee

- 3.1 The sub-committee's November meeting was brought forward to 23 October to accommodate two housing pre-decision items.

Housing Allocations Policy

- 3.2 Key workers schemes were discussed and members given an update on the support available to these officers and the residency criteria. Additional information was requested around out of borough applications and specifically BME and female applicants.

Tenancy Strategy

- 3.3 Members examined the Flexible Tenancy scheme and the reasons why this model was considered the best option for the future. They sought clarification on the impact of this scheme on "problem families".
- 3.4 It was formally agreed at this meeting to have a regular allocated agenda item for the Local Healthwatch Pathfinder co-optee, to feed back the work carried out by her and her colleagues, in a bid to promote joined-up working and two-way communication.
- 3.5 The next meeting of the sub-committee is to be held on 8 January 2013 at the Brighton Road Baptist Church in South Croydon, and will focus on the future of Purley Hospital.

4 Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) on Better Services Better Value (BSBV)

- 4.1 The objective of this joint committee is to respond to the statutory consultation launched by NHS South West London, known as Better Services, Better Value (BSBV), a programme run by the NHS to review health services in South West London.
- 4.2 The 3 October meeting was also attended by representatives of Surrey County Council. It became clear in the course of the meeting that the full impact on Surrey had not been considered when options to be consulted on were drawn up. The following meeting was consequently postponed to allow Surrey County Council to be fully consulted with. The next meeting is now due to be hosted by the London Borough of Merton on Wednesday 12 December.

5 Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on NHS Finances

- 5.1 The committee had met on 6 September to agree the following terms of

reference:

- To receive and review a report commissioned by NHS London from Ernst & Young (dated 28 May 2012) into financial management and corporate governance arrangements at NHS Croydon for the period relating to FY10-11 Annual Accounts;
- To inquire into what action has been taken by NHS South West London Cluster to address recommendations 5.3 to 5.19 of the report; and
- To consider whether the recommendations are sufficient or whether further action should be taken.

- 5.2 At the 29 October meeting of the joint committee, members received evidence from the Chief Executive of NHS South West London regarding the management of their finances. Members considered whether there would be any ongoing adverse affect on local healthcare and whether funds were spent effectively and efficiently.
- 5.3 Evidence was also given by Mr John Power, a former Chairman of the NHS Croydon Audit Committee on the effectiveness and accountability of internal audit.
- 5.4 The review continues with a meeting scheduled for Monday 26th November 2012, at which representatives of Deloitte's (internal audit) and the Audit Commission (external audit) will be giving evidence.