

## REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCRUTINY AND STRATEGIC OVERVIEW COMMITTEE



Cllr Steve Hollands

15 October to 1 December 2013

### 1. Recent Scrutiny Committee Meetings

- 1.1 This report provides an account of Scrutiny activity carried out by the following committees between 15 October and 1 December 2013:
- The Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee
  - The Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee
  - The Health, Social and Care and Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee

### 2 Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee

At the meeting of the Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee on 5 November 2013, members considered items relating to:

- Flood Risk Prevention
- District Centres

- 2.1 Members heard from officers about measures taken on **Flood Risk Prevention** in response to the Flood Water Management Act 2010 which placed new responsibilities on the council. Representatives of the Environment Agency and the community were also in attendance. Members commended the development and environment department for the implementation of the gully and soakaway clearing programme over the past two years. It also endorsed the other work being undertaken by the department in managing flood risk from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses in the Borough and offered its support for future funding bids to carry out flood risk prevention works.
- 2.2 Members heard that there are a number of ways of measuring business vitality in **District Centres** and that one form of regeneration is through businesses working together, possibly in designated Business Improvement Districts. Members were concerned about issues relating to the number of vacant premises in some areas, footfall, access, trade waste, the quality and variety of businesses located in District Centres and parking. Members remarked how the figures for the rates of vacant premises were in unexpected areas. Members asked officers to consider including information relating to vacant premises in reports to the planning committee and to

extend the project to analyse parking use and charges in South End to other areas in the future if it proves to have a beneficial effect on local business vitality.

### **3 Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee**

3.1 At the meeting of the Sub Committee on 15 October 2013, members considered the topic of **Youth Employability** – particularly with regard to ensuring that young people are prepared to take advantage of the employment opportunities coming to the Borough. A number of council officers and stakeholders were present including members of the Youth Council who were able to provide a useful perspective on the issues raised.

3.2 The committee also received information about:

- Apprenticeships
- The need for young people to develop both functional skills and 'soft' skills
- The need for higher educational achievement among young people
- The importance of careers advice and the role of parents helping young people identify a career path

3.3 Members of the Sub-Committee asked that a follow-up item on school exam results be brought to the meeting on 11 February 2014. In addition they asked that Youth Employability from the perspective of businesses be added to the 2014-15 work programme with representatives from local businesses being invited to attend the relevant meeting.

### **4. Health, Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee**

4.1 At its meeting on 21 October 2013 and following a referral from the Corporate Parenting Panel, the Sub-Committee reviewed and commented on progress made in the light of an OFSTED inspection of the **Child & Adolescent Health Service** (CAMHs) in May 2012. Members were informed that significant progress had been made to address the areas of concern raised by OFSTED and that an action plan had been put in place. Officers were able to demonstrate that the plan included named officers and specific end times but Sub-Committee members remained sceptical. The Sub Committee was broadly satisfied with the action taken but would be asking for a follow-up report at a future meeting.

4.2 Also at the meeting on 21 October, the **Croydon Clinical Commissioning Group** (CCG) provided an update on the first 6-months of the organisation, progress made to date and its plans to manage a £50m funding gap whilst continuing to improve and maintain quality primary and secondary care. The CCG also provided its response to the recommendations made by the South West London **NHS Finance** Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) which was accepted by the Committee.

4.3 At its meeting on 19 November 2013 the Sub-Committee considered information from representatives from NHS England, Public Health England and Croydon council on the current role and responsibilities of organisations

in improving coverage of **Childhood Immunisations** in London, NHS England's plans to improve reported rates of childhood immunisation, the national MMR catch-up campaign, local challenges and initiatives and NHS England's Plan for London. These plans included new technology (nasal sprays), alternative providers (Pharmacists) and a practice focus. Members were concerned at the low reported rates of immunization for Croydon. The NHS Bodies did not appear as concerned and felt that the absence of an epidemic in Croydon shows that herd immunity has not been compromised. However there was acceptance that reporting systems and the consistent lack of reporting by 19 GP practices meant that the data was not reliable. Members concluded that the current reporting system could not give confidence in the data, received a commitment from NHS England that the annual birthday card/Celebration card ("celebrate to protect") that acts as a reminder to parents that their child is due to be immunised would be continue to be funded beyond 2014 and agreed to review the process of the 6 month plan at their meeting on 11 March 2014.

- 4.4 Also at its meeting on 19 November, the Sub-Committee received the **Croydon Adult Safeguarding** annual report and information about performance relating to the protection of vulnerable people. The work reported includes turning around the life chances of some of the most vulnerable people in the borough, creating a safer and stronger community, improving health and well-being, tackling inequality, ensuring respect for people as they age and reducing the impact of long term conditions and disability. Members felt that the report was informative and well presented. Officers informed Members that their recommendation last year had been incorporated within the report round the recording of data. Members suggesting recording of outcomes to strengthen data recording. This was noted and would be included in the annual report next year. Deprivation of liberty had been a past committee concern, it was reported that the instances of reporting were in decline, this could be attributed to a lack of understanding – under reporting, or a training need. 868 represents the general safeguarding instances reported this year of this number a third were deemed substantive.
- 4.5 On 19 November, the Sub-Committee received responses to the recommendations following the review of **NHS Croydon finances** by the South West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC). Members heard that the Secretary of State had responded to the report and that most of the proposals in recommendations 9.1 and 9.2 would be included in the new DoH guidance on Local Government scrutiny functions to ensure that NHS organisations are aware of their duties and responsibilities. Members felt that the guidance clarification was a good result for the JHOSC, "the best we could expect" and that it recognised that the recommendations had been sensible. The general consensus was that chief executives should be held to account after they have left the organisation.
- 4.6 The Sub-Committee heard that the South West London JHOSC on **Better Services Better Value** (BSBV) was due to meet on 11 November although this meeting was subsequently postponed following the announcement by

Surrey Downs to leave the JHOSC and oppose the BSBV programme. BSBV officers are in the process of amending the option appraisal by last December and to the back to the public consultation stage in January 2014.

**5. Scrutiny Work Programme 2013/14**

A copy of the scrutiny work programme for the current municipal year is attached.

**SCRUTINY & STRATEGIC OVERVIEW COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME 2013/14**

<b>Meeting 4: 17 December 2013, 6.30pm, Council Chamber, Town Hall, Croydon (PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE)</b>			
<b>Number</b>	<b>Item details and report authors</b>	<b>Responsible director</b>	<b>Brief for the Committee</b>
1	<b>Council Budget 2014/15 and performance review with the Leader of the Council</b>	Nathan Elvery	To scrutinise the proposed 2014/15 Council Budget and review the Council's performance
2	<b>Work Programme</b>	Julie Belvir	To review and make any adjustments to the remaining work programme.

<b>Meeting 5: 4<sup>th</sup> February 2014, 6.30pm, Council Chamber, Town Hall, Croydon</b>			
<b>Number</b>	<b>Item details and report authors</b>	<b>Responsible director</b>	<b>Brief for the Committee</b>
1	<b>Town centre regeneration</b>	Paul Spooner	To review the project plans for the Westfield Hammerson development of the town centre and to consider the potential for disruption to town centre services, such as transport and access, and how this can be mitigated; and to review the proposed allocation of funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy

2	<b>The wider impacts of economic development</b>	Paul Spooner	To review how other areas of the Borough will be impacted by the town centre regeneration, including the restaurant quarter, existing businesses and the work of the BIDs (Business Improvement Districts); and to explore the social impacts of regeneration
3	<b>Scrutiny Sub-Committees</b>	Not applicable	To receive an oral update on the work of the two Sub-Committees
4	<b>Scrutiny Annual Report</b>	Julie Belvir	To approve the Scrutiny Annual Report to be received by Full Council
5	<b>Review of the Work Programme for 2013/14 and suggestions for 2014/15</b>	Julie Belvir	To review the work programme for 2013/14 and to consider topics for inclusion on the 2014/15 work programme

## Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee - Work Programme 2013/2014

<b>Meeting 3: 17 December 2013, 6.30pm, Council Chamber, Town Hall, Croydon</b>			
<b>Number</b>	<b>Item details and report authors</b>	<b>Responsible director</b>	<b>Brief for the Committee</b>
1	<b>Council Budget 2014/15 and performance review with the Leader of the Council -</b> <i>Richard Simpson, Director of Finance</i>	Nathan Elvery	To scrutinise the proposed 2014/15 Council Budget and review the Council's performance

<b>Meeting 4: 11 February 2013, 6.30 pm, Council Chamber, Town Hall, Croydon</b>			
<b>Number</b>	<b>Item details and report authors</b>	<b>Responsible Director</b>	<b>Brief for the Committee</b>
1	Effectiveness of Safeguarding	Paul Greenhalgh	To examine and evaluate the work carried out by the Council and its partners to protect young people at risk
2	Feedback from members on "School Improvement in a climate of change"	Paul Greenhalgh	To receive and comment on Scrutiny Member feedback regarding their work on Croydon's response to the changing environment of more schools becoming academies, significantly fewer resources in the LEA and the introduction of an OSTED inspection regime for school improvement services
3	Scrutiny recommendations on the Impact of Academy Schools and Free Schools on schooling in Croydon: follow-up report	Paul Greenhalgh	To receive an update on the implementation of the recommendations
4	Review of the Work Programme for 2013/2014 and suggestions for 2014-2015	Julie Belvir	To review the work programme for 2013/2014 and to consider topics for inclusion in the 2014/2015 work programme

## Health Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee - Work Programme 2013/2014

<b>Meeting 5: 28 January 2014, 6.30pm, Council Chamber, Town Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon CR0 1NX</b>			
<b>Number</b>	<b>Item details and report authors</b>	<b>Responsible Director</b>	<b>Brief for the Committee</b>
1	Healthwatch		Report on the visits and experience of Healthwatch on Enter and View generally and specifically to consider the Enter and View report on pharmacy services
2	Croydon Health Services NHS Trust Care Quality Commission review of Trust Services	Mike Bell, Chairman, Croydon Health Services NHS Trust John Goulston, CEO, Croydon Health Services NHS Trust	To consider and comment on the outcome of the CQC inspection of the Trust's services and subsequent Quality Summit.
3	JHOSC Better Services Better Value – oral update	Councillors Jason Cummings and Sean Fitzsimons	To provide the Committee with an oral update
4	Work Programme 2013/2014	Julie Belvir	To review progress with the work programme to date and make changes to the rest of the programme as required.



<b>Meeting 6: 11 March 2014, 6.30pm, Council Chamber, Town Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon</b>			
<b>Number</b>	<b>Item details and report authors</b>	<b>Responsible Director</b>	<b>Brief for the Committee</b>
1	Health and Wellbeing Board	Mike Robinson	To review the first year of operation and examine whether the work plan complies with the mission integration and what recommendations on integration have been made
2	Community Health Services NHS Trust	John Goulston, Chief Executive, Croydon Health Services NHS Trust	Progress on Community Services integration with the Acute Services including integration with voluntary sector providers(with particular reference to discharge planning)
3	CAMHS	Paul Greenhalgh	At its meeting of 21 October 2013, the Committee agreed to review the CAMHS action plan following an OFSTED review of the service in May 2013.
4	Childhood Immunisation Programme in Croydon	NHS England Public Health England	At its meeting of 19 November 2013, the Committee agreed to consider an update on the 6-month immunisation plan and to consider an account from all major stakeholders
5	JHOSC Better Services Better Value – oral update	Councillors Jason Cummings and Sean Fitzsimons	To provide the committee with an oral update.
6	HealthWatch		To receive a report from HealthWatch on a topic of its choice.
7	Work Programme 2013/2014	Julie Belvir	To review progress with the work programme to date and make changes as required.