

Minutes of **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Meeting date **Thursday, 1 August 2024**

Committee Members present: Councillor Debra Platt (Chair), Councillor Roy Lees (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Sarah Ainsworth, Irene Amahwe, Michelle Beach, Christine Heydon, Pauline McGovern, Arjun Singh, Kim Snape, Ryan Towers and Katie Wilkie

Committee Members present virtually (non-voting): Councillors Michelle Brown

Officers: Caroline Wolfenden (Director of Change and Delivery); Darren Cranshaw (Head of Democratic Services); and Clare Gornall (Democratic and Member Services Officer)

Apologies: Councillor Russ Green

A video recording of the public session of this meeting is available to view on [YouTube here](#)

23.OS.1 **Declarations of Any Interests**

There were none.

23.OS.2 **Minutes of meeting Thursday, 14 March 2024 of Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Resolved (unanimously):

That the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 14 March 2024, were approved as a correct record.

23.OS.3 **Public Questions**

There were no public questions.

23.OS.4 **Executive Cabinet Minutes**

The minutes of the Executive Cabinet held on 21 March 2024, 13 June 2024 and 11 July 2024 were presented for consideration.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

23.OS.5 Notice of Executive Decisions

The Notice of Executive Decisions for August 2024, available on the Council's website, was considered by the Committee.

Councillor Snape requested an update on the Weed Control Policy.

Resolved (unanimously): –

- i) That the Notice of Executive Decisions be noted;
- ii) That an update on the Weed Control Policy be circulated to the Committee.

23.OS.6 Scrutiny Reporting Back - Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24

The Chair presented the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24 for consideration.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

23.OS.7 Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

The Chair indicated that the initial overview and scrutiny training / workshop session held on 18 June 2024, was not well attended as unfortunately many councillors were on holiday. The workshop session is designed to facilitate discussion of ideas which feed into the process of drafting the work programme for 2024/25.

She therefore proposed that consideration of the draft work programme 2024/25 be deferred until after further training and workshop session is scheduled.

It was proposed that the next session be held on **Tuesday, 3 September 2024 at 6.00pm.**

Resolved – (unanimously):

- i) That the next scrutiny training and workshop session to be held on Tuesday, 3 September 2024 at 6.00pm; and
- ii) that the draft work programme 2024/25 be considered at the next meeting of the Committee.

23.OS.8 Health Scrutiny Update

Councillor Margaret France, Cabinet Member (Health, Wellbeing and Partnerships) gave a verbal update on the Lancashire County Council Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee which had met on 20 March 2024

and 8 May 2024 and meetings of the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board.

She highlighted the following:

20 March 2024:

- Presentation / report on the social care sector workforce – number of sickness absences, vacancies (particularly occupational therapists, residential care assistants) a concern;
- introduction of NHS one workforce concept – “work passports” to allow staff to move between sites

8 May 2024

- Presentation on Living Better Lives in Lancashire
- More integrated working to enable timely discharge from hospital and allow people to be supported to remain in their own homes

26 June 2024 (Councillor Michelle Beach attended on behalf of Councillor Margaret France)

- Work plan 2024/25
- Papers and minutes to be added to the LCC website.

The [agenda papers and minutes](#) can be viewed on the Lancashire County Council website.

23.OS.9 Reports from the Task and Finish Groups

Councillor Arjun Singh, Vice Chair of the Suicide Bereavement and Prevention Scrutiny Task Group, gave an update to the Committee.

The Suicide Bereavement and Prevention Task Group held its first meeting on 22 May 2024, at which members carried out a scoping exercise for this piece of work and received a presentation on the work of the council in terms social prescribing, referral / signposting, its work with partners, including Lancashire MIND and St Laurence’s Church, and on forthcoming events such as the World Suicide Prevention Event in September.

It then met on 19 June, and received background data and evidence to consider as follows:

- Real time surveillance suspected suicide data – Public Health LCC
 - Office for Health Improvement and Disparity Suicide and self-harm data
- It also considered additional information containing sensitive data and hence was held in private session.

The next meeting was on 23 July. Prior to the formal meeting, the Task Group met with members of a Suicide Bereavement Support group, Beside you in Bereavement (BYIB). Guests related their personal experiences with suicide

bereavement and shared what they thought could be improved such as having contact from someone who could offer support within 24 hours.

At the formal meeting, the Task group heard from Lancashire MIND, and what it can offer in terms of the orange button pledge, and provision of self harm safe kits, and free e-learning.

Members also heard from LCC Public Health, and discussed more localised data in private session.

The next steps are to hold another meeting on 20 August. Angela Allen from Bags for Strife will be attending, and we are hoping Andy's man Club will attend too.

The Task Group would also like to speak to local police on a date to be arranged.

This scrutiny review has been progressing very well and aims to be completed by the end of September.

23.OS.10 Any urgent business previously agreed with the Chair

There was no urgent business.

Chair

Date