

Scrutiny Reporting Back

Chorley Council's Annual Report on Overview and Scrutiny in 2018/19



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1. MEMBERSHIP OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2017/18



Councillor John Walker
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2018/19



Councillor Alistair Morwood
Vice Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2018/19

Councillors Paul Clark, Chris France, Yvonne Hargreaves, Steve Holgate, Paul Leadbetter, Matthew Lynch, June Molyneaux, Greg Morgan, Steve Murfitt, Debra Platt, Gillian Sharples and Kim Snape

2 INTRODUCTION BY THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has had a busy year undertaking a range of service areas and one task group review. Councillors John Walker and Alistair Morwood were appointed Chair and Vice Chair respectively. There were also several new members welcomed to the Committee.

The Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel, consisting of six members met quarterly to monitor the Council's business planning and performance monitoring along with a focus on each of the Directorates in turn.

The task group review was "Quality of Housing provided by Social Landlords".

The Committee continued to receive six monthly monitoring reports following the Executive Cabinet's response on the implementation of outcomes and measured success from past scrutiny reviews, including;

Rollout of Superfast Broadband

In October we received a report updating us on the implementation of the recommendations made by the inquiry which reported to Executive Cabinet in August 2017.

The Council is investigating an online digital skills platform. We gave positive feedback on the training delivered by the Council's Digital Transformation Officer. There are now four digital hubs in Council owned community centres. An additional nine access points takes the total number across the Borough up to 26, including the more rural areas of Mawdesley and Charnock Richard.

We noted that the broadband is now considered the fourth utility that residents rely on. There is an officer who will be based at the Digital Office Park, to give advice to businesses.

Child Sexual Exploitation

Also in October, we received a report updating us on progress made in responding to the recommendations. We considered the action plan and noted that training is ongoing for officers and Members in relation to CSE. There is extensive work with partners on this issue.

Adoption of Estates

In March we noted that each Neighbourhood Area receives a report on the progress of adoptions including adoptions of roads and public open space for their Neighbourhood Area Meetings (NAMs) annually. The NAM reports list current information held on sites, progress and responds to queries received.

We noted the difficulties faced by the Council due to the triangular relationship between LCC and developers. Issues of record keeping by LCC were discussed in relation to a number of cases. We suggested that a representative from LCC be invited to a future meeting.

3 CHALLENGING PERFORMANCE

The Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel focused on the performance elements of scrutiny and considered all monitoring information. Scrutinising performance is a key role for scrutiny and one of the benefits to the dedicated resources was that a smaller number of members were able to drill down to the detail in key areas and adopt some consistency in approach.

The panel for 2018/19 consisted of the following membership -

Councillor John Walker (Chair)
Councillor Alistair Morwood (Vice Chair)
Councillor Matthew Lynch
Councillor June Molyneaux
Councillor Greg Morgan
Councillor Kim Snape

The Panel met four times within the last twelve months, considering the Council's Corporate Strategy, key projects and monitoring that captured all the directorate and service level business improvement plans. The Panel also considered an additional performance focus, where different directorates are put under the spotlight.

Customer and Digital

In June Asim Khan (Director Customer and Digital) attended with Councillor Paul Walmsley, Executive Member (Public Protection).

Planning

We discussed the excellent performance in relation to Planning for 'Major', 'Minor' and 'Other' and staffing changes this year.

Enforcement

Enforcement services are now together under one Enforcement Team which will be in operation from July 2018 onwards. This will include Building Control, Licensing (including Long term empty properties), Planning Enforcement and Neighbourhood Officers (including dog fouling and fly-tipping).

Enforcement performance is mixed, with positive results against long term empty properties targets. For planning enforcement complaints during quarter two and three there has been a focus on working to close historic cases.

We noted the positive move in bringing enforcement officers together and the improvement in communication and service this should bring. We discussed the difficulties in securing convictions for dog fouling as enforcement officers have to catch perpetrators in the act.

ICT Strategy

In 2017 the Council agreed an ICT strategy to deliver improved and efficient digital services to the residents and businesses of Chorley. Staff, members and residents rely heavily on ICT for the provision of services.

We queried several points relating to the new data centre and network which will future proof the Council and enable use of cloud services. The fibre infrastructure within the town centre has been replaced, but it is planned that the redundant corporate network fibre will be reused for CCTV in the future. We noted the new devices will facilitate voice over IP.

The Council have won the SOCTIM Pioneer Challenge for innovation in embracing cloud technology. The funds received in relation to this will be used to test the disaster recovery plan.

Early Intervention and Support

In September Chris Sinnott (Director of Early Intervention and Support) attended with Councillor Bev Murray (Executive Member for Early Intervention).

Health and Wellbeing

Key areas of discussion included

- Neighbourhood Priorities and plans to work in a partnership approach with Parish Councils to make best use of any Community Infrastructure funding.
- Work relating to "barriers to employment".
- Apprenticeships and noted that money can be drawn down from the Government to assist with apprentices. Eric Wright and Wilmott Dixon both have apprenticeship schemes.
- Bed blocking and the positive impact the Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) can have. Officers have been able to utilise Occupational Therapists from within the Integrated Wellbeing Service to reduce waiting times for DFGs. DFG's can eliminate the need for a social care package as the person returns to their own home.

Housing Solutions

We queried the performance for "% rent collected at Cotswold Supported Housing" and noted that this relates to the timing of housing benefits payments.

Regulatory Services

We were advised that a "proactive housing inspection" occurs when the Council write to tenants (mainly housing benefit claimants) and ask if they would like their home to be inspected. This was a recommendation from an Overview and Scrutiny inquiry and aims to give tenants another option to address any issues, without having to go through their landlord. Councillors can request these inspections on behalf of tenants.

Integrated Wellbeing Service

The Service is a partnership between Chorley Council and Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust involving around 170 members of staff. The teams within the Early Intervention and Support directorate work alongside teams from LCFT including, Mindsmatter, Community Restart, Community Therapies, Learning Disabilities and the 0 to 19 service with an aim of changing how we deliver services to improve prevention and early intervention and reduce demand on public services.

There are no current performance indicators and it is difficult to measure the lack of future contact averted through early actions undertaken. We requested that performance indicators be developed for quarterly performance monitoring undertaken by Executive Cabinet.

There are plans to look at a refernet in the future – there is a need to look at the bigger picture in terms of helping vulnerable people, often with complex needs. The work done through PIVOT can greatly assist vulnerable people who have contact with a number of agencies.

Policy and Governance

In November Rebecca Huddleston (Director of Policy and Governance) attended with Councillor Peter Wilson (Deputy Executive Leader and Executive Member Resources).

We focused on increasing digital inclusion in line with the Digital Strategy, including

- Work undertaken with young people includes code clubs, developing websites and creating animations and actively encourages girls to invest in skills for future jobs within the digital sector.
- Residents are increasingly migrating onto digital channels when communicating with the Council, but that the contacts via face to face and the telephone have not reduced. Simon Charnock, Digital Transformation Officer, is working with Age UK to deliver training.
- The success of the Digital Hubs and the potential to increase these in the future if required.

We then discussed the improvement programme for Astley Hall and Park, including

- The plan in the event that the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid is unsuccessful and noted that some of the planned work will go ahead in phases.
- The spend on the Hall and Park is greater than other parks, such as Yarrow Valley, but Yarrow Valley has benefitted from improvement works to the car park and flood defences.
- Other play areas have also benefitted from improvement works, such as Coronation Rec and Harpers Lane Rec.

We queried the performance target for the annual target of visitors to the Hall. Events such as Astley Illuminated have proven to be extremely popular, not just with Chorley residents, but people outside of the Borough as well.

We noted poor performance against the target for payment of invoices within 10 days. This was due to issues with long term sickness within the team.

Business, Development and Growth

In March Mark Lester (Director of Business, Development and Growth) attended with Councillor Alistair Bradley (Executive Leader and Executive Member Economic Development and Public Service Reform).

We noted some of the corporate projects being delivered by the Directorate which included bringing forward key sites for development, the delivery of Primrose Gardens, the Market Walk extension and the Digital Office Park, amongst other projects.

Performance against two of the corporate strategy indicators was good, with the overall employment rate for Chorley continuing to increase, and the percentage of 16-17 year olds who are not in

education, employment or training continuing to decrease, meaning overall there are more people in employment across the Borough.

Unemployment was at 2.8% in Chorley, the second lowest rate across Lancashire. Performance was lower than anticipated for the number of projected jobs created through the council's support schemes (job grants, investments and direct business support) this quarter with 64 jobs created against a target of 90. This was due to the current offer for businesses (Choose Chorley grant and the BIG grant) having restrictive criteria. As a result, the criteria for grants would be reviewed.

There were four new measures for Property Services. Performance against three of the local indicators was good, with all three performing above target. The percentage of land ownership replied to within 3 working days was off target due to one enquiry exceeding the deadline.

Market Walk Extension

Every unit had received interest or an offer and there were lots of different negotiations and conditions to consider to ensure the best deal for Chorley.

Logistically, it was unlikely that all units would be signed up by the time the building work was complete, but assurances were given that M&S and REEL Cinema would be in the units for Christmas.

Primrose Gardens

Chorley Council Building Control had issued a practical completion certificate in time for the required Homes England, deadline. Following this, officers would be submitting a final grant claims to LCC and Homes England. The development had received a lot of interest.

Subsequent to the handover there would be snagging with increased resources to complete this in time. There were also a number of potential cost items still to be added at the site, such as additional mobility scooter charging points and additional signage.

Strawberry Fields Digital Office Hub

Construction was ahead of schedule and the majority of the building work was complete. There had been difficulties outside of the council's control, such as the delivery of the spine road and services to the site, however these had not significantly delayed progress of the development. Positive levels of interest had been received from businesses.

We queried the green performance rating at Cowling Farm and whether the project should have been further ahead at this stage. We were reassured that the masterplan criteria had been adhered to for quarter 3 and the main milestone for quarter 4 was the submission of a planning application. Homes England were reviewing their strategy on the submission of an application, however a joint application was of preference to the Council.

With regards to a Housing Company update, detailed analysis was taking place and a paper outlining the potential structures and a business case would be produced.

4 KEY MESSAGES FROM SCRUTINY TASK GROUPS

Quality of housing provided by social landlords – Chaired by Councillor Matthew Lynch

In 2017 the Council had recognised the need for the issue of the quality of housing provided by social landlords to be investigated.

Funding had been secured by the Chair, Councillor Jane Fitzsimons, to undertake a survey of around two thirds of tenants. Following her appointment to the Executive Cabinet in May 2018 Councillor Lynch became the Chair. The Task Group have interviewed representatives from the two largest Registered Providers in Chorley, Chorley Community Housing and Places for People.

The recommendations put forward by the Task Group are in line with the Housing green paper. There are clear patterns in the results regarding the performance of social landlords within Chorley. The recommendations will be taken forward as the Council sets up a Housing Company.

The report was due to be considered by Executive Cabinet in June.

5. CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY

The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 state that “A crime and disorder committee shall meet to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions as the committee considers appropriate but no less than once in every twelve month period”.

In line with this the Committee invited Chief Inspector Gary Crowe to outline recent changes to the Neighbourhood Policing model and answer any questions from Members.

CI Crowe outlined the different functions of Lancashire Constabulary and that uniformed officers previously undertook emergency response or neighbourhood policing. Previously resources have been prioritised by risk and this has worked to a point. Resources are stretched and the police are becoming involved in cases outside of crime. Roughly 20% of resources are spent on crime and 80% on vulnerable people who slip through the cracks of other services. This means that emergency response has overflowed into neighbourhood policing.

This has impacted in neighbourhood policing and the Assistant Chief Constable has commissioned a review. As a result, some of the constables who had previously been engaged in neighbourhood policing have been moved to emergency response. There are no savings arising from the review, just a realigning of resources.

Over the last six months several Community Beat Managers (CBM) haven't been replaced and neighbourhood policing is now moving to a new model of six CBM's rather than 12. This has no impact on the PCSO's.

There has been an investment in an additional 50 call handlers and officers who undertake special investigations, for example, cybercrime. This includes assistant investigators who are not necessarily police officers. The amount of cybercrime had been greatly underestimated.

Key areas of discussion included

- PCSO's and Special Constables
- Solutions in place for visiting football fans
- The procedure when processing information received from the public
- The fear of knife crime
- The stop and search power
- The relationship with the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)
- The communication tool “intheknow” and support for Neighbourhood Watch
- Cross border burglaries
- The need to educate residents to lock their homes and cars to protect themselves

6 CHALLENGING THE EXECUTIVE

In addition to challenging the Executive Members through the Performance Panel, the Committee worked together positively with the Executive Leader and the Executive Cabinet in scrutinising their proposals.

In June 2018 we expressed concern about the ongoing dip in performance relating to staff absence. We noted the Attendance Policy is currently being reviewed and identified this as a potential future topic for scrutiny.

We noted the decision in relation to the lease of Duxbury Golf Course. The Chair requested that information be shared with him, as Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, prior to the Executive Member Decision on the matter.

On the Quarter Four Performance Report considered by the Performance Panel we noted the action required in relation to the 'A strong local economy' priority has two projects rated amber: 'Bring forward key sites for development' and 'Market Walk Extension'. It was confirmed that Eric Wright Construction employ local people, including apprentices.

In October we noted that a report relating to the control of Invasive Non-Native Species would be considered at the meeting in November.

On the Chorley Council Performance Monitoring - Second Quarter 2018/19 considered by the Performance Panel we queried the target for the indicator relating "Number of projected jobs created through Chorley Council support or intervention", the Streetscene Modernisation project and the impact of the Youth Zone on the "The number of young people supported through council health and wellbeing opportunities".

In March we queried the progress with the development of the Cowling Farm site and the implementation of the Senior Management Review.

Later in March, we received a report relating to the Leisure Contract Review which had been considered by Executive Cabinet in March. We were pleased with the focus on encouraging residents to be healthy.

7 FINANCIAL SCRUTINY

In January 2018 we welcomed Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member (Resources) who presented the report which set out the budget position for 2019/20 including the forecast for the following two years to 2021/22, proposals for the use of forecast resources identified in 2019/20, and consultation on the Budget.

The Council has experienced and may continue to experience in the coming three years, large reductions in its major funding sources, in particular the Revenue Support Grant and income from Lancashire County Council.

A key influencing factor on the forthcoming budget is the effective management of the budget in the preceding financial year. To bridge the immediate budget gap the Executive Cabinet has achieved and identified proposals for immediate permanent budget savings of £1.484m in preparation for 2019/20. This is in addition to a total of £3.574m savings already achieved in prior years, including efficiency savings, reviews of contracts, base budgets and income streams.

Through savings achieved to date, additional income identified, a review of net financing and increases in council tax the Council is able to set a balanced budget in 2019/20 whilst still investing in corporate strategy priorities.

Despite the budget savings identified there remain large forecast budget deficits of £1.196m in 2020/21 and £1.672m in 2021/22. To achieve a sufficient reduction in net expenditure the Council's strategy will be:

1. To realise savings through the procurement of its contracts.
2. To identify the efficiencies through investment in infrastructure, ICT and through exploring alternative delivery models that will enable the Council to balance the budget whilst seeking to minimise the impact on front line service users.
3. To make the Council more financially self-sufficient with specific emphasis on creating investment that generates income. This includes identifying future resources to support income generating schemes.

Further changes to the capital programme include £1.3m for investment in council offices, at Union Street and the Town Hall, £1.750m investment in Astley Hall and Park and £2.7m investment in a new sports facility at West Way playing fields. Balances remain at £4m.

We raised queries on the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and the investment in infrastructure and ICT. The investment enables customers to undertake more transactions electronically, but also increase the security of the Council's infrastructure.

We discussed the report and noted the following:

- Shared services will be taken forwards following the elections in May. South Ribble have all out elections this time.
- It is anticipated that the outcome of the Business Rates review and impact on the Council will be known before the Council meeting in February.
- The figures setting out the income generated from Market Walk are contained within the base budget.
- The figures relating to the income generation targets for the extension of Market Walk shopping centre are £125k net income in 2019/20 and £300k net income from 2020/21 onwards.
- Customers will be inconvenienced as little as possible during the works to Customer Services at Union Street.
- The Housing Company is a medium to long-term project. It is not anticipated that the Housing Revenue Account will be reopened, however as the housing stock numbers increase we will need to review all options.
- The Council is resisting pressure from central Government to continue to build houses at recent rates. This will have an impact on the amount of New Homes Bonus received by the Council.
- The Council has been able to borrow less than anticipated, due to the lower rates the Council is able to access.
- A bid has been made to the Football Foundation to fund the new sports facility at West Way playing fields.
- The acoustics of the Lancastrian will be considered during the proposed capital works to the Town Hall.

8 OTHER TOPICS CONSIDERED

Youth Zone update

In June we welcomed Janine Blythe, Chief Executive of Inspire, who give an update on the first few weeks that the Youth Zone has been open.

Inspire Chorley Youth Zone is part of a Network of similar independent youth organisations that all share the same principles developed by the charity OnSide Youth Zones. Chorley Council are supporters of the Youth Zone and were instrumental in the facility being built in Chorley. The aims are to support the young people of Chorley and the purpose-built facility, for the borough's young people aged 8 – 19, and up to 25 for those with disabilities, opened on 5 May.

The Chorley Youth Zone is the first time OnSide have built a facility in a smaller area like Chorley. Usually they are in larger towns, like Blackburn and Wigan. Sessions will be adapted for young people with additional needs to enable anyone to access them; including young people with a variety of different needs from mild learning difficulties to more complex needs such as visual impairment and physical disabilities.

Over 15,000 young people aged 8-19 live in Chorley and, eight weeks in, 3,600 young people are members, which has exceeded the annual target for membership numbers. This exceeds the membership numbers at this point for other Youth Zones and proves that there is a need in Chorley for this type of facility. The town centre location means excellent transport links and neutral ground for the young people. In advance of the opening staff from the Youth Zone visited schools and

partners, such as Parish Councils, to raise awareness of the facility and explore barriers for young people. Young people from Adlington, Croston, Rufford and Lostock Hall have attended sessions. In the next few months staff will analyse attendance and target any pockets of areas with low attendance.

Around 30% of the young people registered have additional needs. Usually the figure is between 10 and 12%. This is a challenge as it is important for all young people to have a fantastic time at the facility. Each young person with additional needs has an orientation visit which lasts about an hour. Not all those registered with additional needs have had their orientation tour, but some additional staffing resources are being facilitated. There are plans to employ an inclusion worker and work is ongoing to access external funding to secure this.

Work is ongoing with public transport providers as young people are finding this mode of transport expensive. Staff have already been in touch with social services and the Police with safeguarding issues. The Police are in touch, but no issues have been reported. There is a firm and consistent approach to discipline which is proving effective.

Activities have been arranged in relation to the World Cup, Chorley in Bloom and holiday club for the summer break. A homework room is available – this was requested by young people.

Absence Policy

We noted that the target the Council has set itself is challenging and that Chorley is 6 out of 32 for the days lost per employee for 2017/18 across Councils in the surrounding area. Recent changes to the Policy have been made in consultation with Senior Management Team, the Union and staff. Staff have undertaken training on the revised Policy and positive feedback has been received. Monitoring information will be undertaken on a quarterly basis at Executive Cabinet.

The Absence Policy is used in conjunction with the Emotional Wellbeing Policy to assist in managing stress. This is a holistic approach and takes into account issues outside of work. Staff can be referred to Occupational Health for assistance and can also attend six funded counselling sessions. Cognitive Behaviour Therapy can also be accessed and the Big White Wall which is a support network for emotional health. It was clarified that industrial injuries are not be dealt with under this Policy.

The revised Policy was implemented in September and so it was too early to tell if the revisions were having a positive impact.

Impact of Garden Waste Charging

Also in October we were advised that a charge of £30 per bin was introduced on 1 May 2017 for residents who wished to participate in the council's garden waste collection service. Prior to that date collections had been free at point of use if residents wished to participate in the scheme.

There were 23,386 grey bin subscriptions generating an income of £702,616. Participation in the scheme for those properties with gardens is around 55%. The recycling rate has reduced by 5% since the change to garden waste collections, but that there has been no increase in fly tipping of garden waste following the introduction of a charge for this service.

The waste authority are monitoring the recycling figures and there is some work to be done to improve recycling rates. The new contractor for waste collection will be introducing WEE collections and bulky waste collections.

Review of communications with Councillors

In January we received a report updating us on the improvements made to communication mechanisms with Councillors following the review in March 2018.

We noted the different communication mechanisms utilised, including intheknow, Member Learning Sessions and briefings. The iPad is fundamental to the role of a Councillor, and to ensure Members are fully trained on their iPads the Member Support Working Group has agreed to offer all Members an iPad 121 as part of their Personal Development Plan review in the summer.

Following the feedback relating to My Account additional staff training has taken place in order to reduce the instances of service requests closed before work has been completed. ICT will work with the Member Support Working Group to identify and implement enhancements to My Account over the next twelve months. Investigations are also ongoing for an app to provide officer contact details, as requested by Member Support Working Group, within existing Office 365 functionality.

In the coming weeks the Council is rolling out Yammer (an internal social networking tool) across the organisation and Members will have the opportunity to be involved, following the trial by staff.

Update on Mobilisation for the New Waste and Recycling Collection Contract

In January we received a report updating us on progress with mobilisation for the new waste and recycling collection contract which starts on 1 April 2019. The award of the new contract has made a significant contribution to the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

We requested a copy of the risk register for the mobilisation and noted that the Council has a duty to collect clinical waste from households.

Approach to Dealing with Unauthorised Encampments on Land not owned by Gypsy Travellers

In March a special meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was requested by Councillor Marion Lowe.

Councillor Marion Lowe explained that she felt the current approach to dealing with unauthorised encampments on land not owned by Gypsy Travellers is in need of review. The time and costs required to remove unauthorised encampments were also a factor, especially for those residents affected. Delays have been experienced in the provision of a transient site.

Officers explained that the current approach involves different teams across the Council, including Environmental Health, Legal, Communications, Public Protection and Animal Welfare.

A great deal of interventions are actioned in the hours after notification is received that an unauthorised encampment is on Council land. This includes liaison with the Police, commencement of the legal processes, communication with all interested parties and welfare visits for the Gypsy Travellers and any animals they have. Experience has shown that it is best to positively engage with the Gypsy Travellers. The Council also give advice to private landowners when there are encampments on their property.

Chief Inspector Gary Crowe advised that Gypsy Travellers have the right to a family and to a private life under the Human Rights Act. The Police can act under specific circumstances, for example, if a private land owner has taken reasonable steps to request an unauthorised encampment to leave their land, and threats had been made or a crime committed. If an encampment is impeding a business the Police have powers to act. It is difficult when an encampment moves around several times within the same area.

We queried several points including the issues of Penalty Charge Notices when an encampment is on a car park, the case of the Thwaites brewery in Blackburn, planning for Bank Holidays, the need to communicate with the residents of Chorley, the potential to modify the entrances to Council car parks, and when it is appropriate to scan dogs for microchips.

Zoe Whiteside, Planning Policy, Housing and Open Space Strategy Manager, advised that the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the 2015 Planning Policy for Traveller Site (PPTS) require a local needs assessment and 'ensure that their Local Plan includes a fair, realistic and inclusive policies to increase the number of traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply'.

Zoe Whiteside gave an update on the development of Cowling Farm. The Council has been working in collaboration with Homes England on the master planning for the site as whole. This work has involved technical works and a period of consultation (with the public and LCC) to agree the access arrangements for the housing, employment and the Gypsy and Traveller allocation.

Updates on the Lancashire County Council Health Scrutiny Committee

In October Councillor Steve Holgate explained that a presentation had been given by the "Our Health Our Care" at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. South Ribble Borough Council has invited Chorley and Preston Councils to be involved in a joint scrutiny of "Our Health Our Care".

In January Councillor Alistair Morwood advised the delayed transfers of care in Lancashire had been considered. Concerns had been raised about the increase in delayed transfers of care across the Trusts from April 2018 to August 2018. It was reported that the increase in delays was in part due to the long heatwave over the summer months.

Councillor Steve Holgate updated the Committee for the December meeting. The matter under consideration was the Transforming Care Partnership. Councillor Holgate raised his concerns about the proposed closure of Caulderstones in 2020 and whether new facilities would be open by that time.

In March Councillor Alistair Morwood advised the Committee that he had received an overview of the partnership in Lancashire and South Cumbria working as an Integrated Care System (ICS) which covered five local areas.

Concerns had been expressed with regards to recent issues in relation to mental health service provision in accident and emergency departments and the lack of baseline figures in the report necessary to evaluate the effectiveness and impact of expenditure.

An update on the Stroke Programme was also given. Stroke is not an older person's disease and disabilities are lifelong. Stroke is the fourth major cause of death and the principal cause of disability in the UK and lifestyle is a major contributing factor. A considerable number of patients are not being appropriately treated for Atrial Fibrillation and hypertension, and approximately 30% of patients are discharged from hospital with no plan.

9 CONCLUSION AND THE YEAR AHEAD

It has been an interesting year for scrutiny, resulting in some key recommendations on topics of concern to members and the public. Challenges ahead are to continue to scrutinise areas of interest for members and their constituents and to follow up on the implementations of scrutiny recommendations. We need to work effectively with our partners on scrutiny and to continue to challenge the Executive in a constructive way with recommendations that result in positive outcomes for the residents in Chorley.

The Council will hold four meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and four meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel in 2019/20. Councillor John Walker, will remain Chair and Councillor Roy Lees will replace Councillor Alistair Morwood as Vice Chair.

We also welcome some new members to the committee. The draft work programme will be considered at the first meeting of the Committee in July. This includes the monitoring of previous inquiry recommendations and potential future review topics.