

Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board

25 June 2013

Terms of Reference

Purpose

- 1.1 The Council implemented a revised scrutiny function at its Annual Meeting in May 2012 and undertook to review its effectiveness/ suitability after 12 months of operation. Additionally, the focus of a number of areas both locally and nationally has emphasised the scrutiny of certain public sector functions.

- 1.2 Adult Services now represents one of the biggest areas of expenditure of the authority given the Borough's ageing population and the increase in numbers of people suffering from dementia and is, therefore, deserving of a dedicated scrutiny board. Terms of reference (Appendix A) are attached for your information.

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1. Scrutiny – Overall Statement of Purpose

- 1.1 Scrutiny in Sandwell has a key role in delivering local accountability, transparency and involvement in decision making and the achievement of scorecard priorities. It will:-
- (a) contribute to the good governance, reputation and performance of the Council;
 - (b) contribute to the development, review and implementation of scorecard priorities and policy through early involvement in pre-decision scrutiny and through undertaking specific pieces of research and investigation;
 - (c) continue to develop a borough-wide focus particularly through its relationship and statutory role in respect of key partners;
 - (d) consider a wide range of evidence, views and opinions, promote good governance and decision making and improve confidence and involvement with local democracy.

2. Terms of Reference

- 2.1 As set out in the scrutiny procedure rules, to scrutinise recommendations, consider referrals under the Call for Action and the Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Call in) processes and review and advise on the Council's policies and practices in respect of, and upon such terms as are set out below:-
- (a) the Supporting People Programme;
 - (b) whole life services for people with disabilities and/or learning disabilities;
 - (c) local safeguarding arrangements for adults;
 - (d) services for older and vulnerable adults;
 - (e) strategic development of adult education.

3. General Role

3.1 In relation to the above terms of reference, the Scrutiny Board will:-

- (a) develop a work programme for scrutiny of the adult social care related functions of the Council and partners;
- (b) use the scrutiny scoring matrix to establish suitable themes for investigation and areas for further scrutiny;
- (c) review or scrutinise the exercise of any council or executive function, or any other related matter;
- (d) make reports or recommendations to Council or the Executive in connection with the exercise of any functions of the Council or the Executive;
- (e) receive and review external audit and inspection reports;
- (f) act as the appropriate Scrutiny Board in relation to the Executive's initial proposals for a plan or strategy within the Budget and Policy Framework;
- (g) review outcomes, targets and priorities within the Sandwell Scorecard and to make such reports and recommendations as it considers appropriate;
- (h) review or scrutinise executive decisions made but not implemented;
- (i) receive and monitor formal responses to any reports or recommendations made by the Board.