

## Work Schedule

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Report of: Head of Democratic Services

Report to: Scrutiny Board (Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles)

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

### Brief summary

- All Scrutiny Boards are required to determine and manage their own work schedule for the municipal year. In doing so, the work schedule should not be considered a fixed and rigid schedule, it should be recognised as a document that can be adapted and changed to reflect any new and emerging issues throughout the year; and also reflect any timetable issues that might occur from time to time.
- The Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules also state that, where appropriate, all terms of reference for work undertaken by Scrutiny Boards will include 'to review how and to what effect consideration has been given to the impact of a service or policy on all equality areas, as set out in the Council's Equality and Diversity Scheme'.
- The latest version of the Board's work schedule is attached to this report for the Board's consideration.
- This report also includes a summary note of the Scrutiny Board's working group meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023 in relation to local NHS dentistry provision.

### Recommendations

Members are requested to note this report and accompanying appendices and to consider the Scrutiny Board's work schedule for the 2023/24 municipal year.

## What is this report about?

1. All Scrutiny Boards are required to determine and manage their own work schedule for the municipal year and therefore the latest version of the Board's work schedule for the remainder of the municipal year is attached as Appendix 1 for Members' consideration.
2. The latest Executive Board minutes from the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023 are also attached as Appendix 2. The Scrutiny Board is asked to consider and note the Executive Board minutes, insofar as they relate to the remit of the Scrutiny Board; and consider any matter where specific scrutiny activity may also be warranted.

### Developing the work schedule

3. When considering any developments and/or modifications to the work schedule, effort should be undertaken to:
  - Avoid unnecessary duplication by having a full appreciation of any existing forums already having oversight of, or monitoring, a particular issue.
  - Ensure any Scrutiny undertaken has clarity and focus of purpose and will add value and can be delivered within an agreed time frame.
  - Avoid pure "information items" except where that information is being received as part of a policy/scrutiny review.
  - Seek advice about available resources and relevant timings, taking into consideration the workload across the Scrutiny Boards and the type of Scrutiny taking place.
  - Build in sufficient flexibility to enable the consideration of urgent matters that may arise during the year.
4. To deliver the work schedule, the Board may need to undertake activities outside the formal schedule of meetings – such as working groups and site visits. Additional formal meetings of the Scrutiny Board may also be required.

### Scrutiny working group meeting on local NHS dentistry provision.

5. Dentistry has been a longstanding area of interest to the Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles Scrutiny Board in recognition that oral health is integral to general health and quality of life. Members agreed to revisit this matter again this year to understand what development/ progress has been made since the Scrutiny Board's last discussion on dentistry back in November 2022.
6. On 1 April 2023, the West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) received the delegation of commissioning responsibility for dental services from NHS England. Representatives from the WY ICB therefore attended a working group meeting of the Scrutiny Board on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023 to lead on providing an updated position. All Board Members were invited to attend the working group meeting along with other contributors representing the view of dental providers, practitioners and patients.
7. A summary of the key issues raised during this working group meeting is appended to this report for the Board's consideration and formal ratification.
8. The provision of dentistry from a broader regional perspective was also considered by the West Yorkshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee during its meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023. Details of that meeting can be accessed on the Kirklees Council website and also via this [link](#).

### What impact will this proposal have?

9. All Scrutiny Boards are required to determine and manage their own work schedule for the municipal year.

### How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

- Health and Wellbeing       Inclusive Growth       Zero Carbon

10. The terms of reference of the Scrutiny Boards promote a strategic and outward looking Scrutiny function that focuses on the priorities set out in the Best City Ambition.

### What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?       Yes       No

11. The Vision for Scrutiny states that Scrutiny Boards should seek the advice of the Scrutiny officer, the relevant Director and Executive Member about available resources prior to agreeing items of work.

### What are the resource implications?

12. Experience has shown that the Scrutiny process is more effective and adds greater value if the Board seeks to minimise the number of substantial inquiries running at one time and focus its resources on one key issue at a time.
13. The Vision for Scrutiny, agreed by full Council also recognises that like all other Council functions, resources to support the Scrutiny function are under considerable pressure and that requests from Scrutiny Boards cannot always be met.
14. Consequently, when establishing their work programmes Scrutiny Boards should consider the criteria set out in paragraph 3.

### What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

15. There are no risk management implications relevant to this report.

### What are the legal implications?

16. This report has no specific legal implications.

### Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Latest work schedule of the Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles Scrutiny Board for the 2023/24 municipal year.
- Appendix 2 – Minutes of the Executive Board meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023.
- Appendix 3 (to follow) – Summary note of the Scrutiny Board’s working group meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023 in relation to local NHS dentistry provision.

### Background papers

- None.