

Work Schedule

Date: 20 September 2022

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. Rather, the work schedule 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 timetabling 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 reflect the requirement '*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 iteration of the Board's work schedule for 2022/23 is appended to this report for the Board's consideration.

Recommendations

Members are requested to:

- (1) Consider and comment on the latest iteration of the Scrutiny Board's work schedule for the 2022/23 municipal year.
- (2) Note the update provided regarding the timing of the Board's consideration of matters associated with access to dental services.
- (3) Specifically consider and agree the outline scope for matters scheduled for the Board's meeting in November 2022.
- (4) Agree to the proposed approach for scoping the Board's proposed enquiry around mental health.
- (5) Note the update provided in relation to the recently published guidance arising from the Health and Care Act 2022.
- (6) Note the Executive Board minutes from the meeting held on 27 July 2022, insofar as they relate to the remit of the Scrutiny Board; and consider any matter where specific scrutiny activity may also be warranted.

What is this report about?

- 1 At the Scrutiny Board's initial meeting on 21 June 2022, Members were presented with a draft work schedule for the current municipal year, which reflected known items of scrutiny activity, such as performance and budget monitoring, as well as other areas of work recommended by the former Scrutiny Board to be pursued during the 2022/23 municipal year.
- 2 Other potential areas of interest were also raised during the initial meeting, with an analysis of those matters, alongside additional potential matters highlighted from other sources, presented to the Consultative Board meeting in July 2022. This analysis is now presented at Appendix 1.
- 3 An updated version of the Board's work schedule for 2022/23 is also set out in Appendix 2 for the Board's consideration. There will be an opportunity to discuss these details in greater depth during the meeting.
- 4 Feedback on the Boards draft work schedule was sought ahead of July's Consultative Committee meeting – with no comments or advice received. No additional advice and/or comments have been received.
- 5 The Executive Board minutes from the meeting held on 27 July 2022 are also attached at Appendix 3. 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

- 6 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.
- 7 The above working principals have been taken into account when undertaking the analysis of potential work areas, which in turn is reflected in the draft work schedule appended to this report.
- 8 It should be noted that in order to deliver the work schedule, the Board may need to take a flexible approach and undertake activities outside the formal schedule of meetings – such as working groups and site visits, where necessary and appropriate.
- 9 These approaches are reflected in the draft work schedule appended to this report. However, it should be noted that the work schedule remains a live document and this flexible approach may require further refinement, which may include additional formal meetings of the Scrutiny Board.

Developments to the work schedule

Dentistry

- 10 Provision of dentistry and access to dental services in Leeds remains a specific priority for the Board. This includes following up on the Boards previous recommendations and responding to the growing level of public concern around accessing NHS dental services. This includes access to orthodontic services for children, that have recently been subject to re-procurement by NHS England. Concerns regarding these services, including access, have been highlighted and drawn to the attention of the Scrutiny Board by Healthwatch Leeds.
- 11 In April 2023, responsibility for commissioning dental services is due to transfer from NHS England to respective Integrated Care Boards across England. For Leeds, this means that from April 2023, it is expected that dental services will be commissioned by the West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board.
- 12 Representatives from NHS England and West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board were invited to attend the September meeting of the Scrutiny Board to discuss dental provision, access to services and the other matters identified above. However, partly due to the availability of key representatives, but also the significant time that Board members are likely to need to sufficiently consider the information and responses provided, alternative dates for an additional, formal meeting of the Board are being actively explored at the time of writing this report. Any further details will be shared with members of the Board as soon as possible, and an update will be provided at the meeting.

Preparations for November's Board meeting

- 13 As outlined in the work schedule appended to this report, the Board's November meeting is dedicated to considering two 'whole system' matters – associated with waiting lists / times and workforce strategy. In order to continue with preparations for that meeting and to help confirm the information to be presented and considered by the Board, the following draft scope is presented for the Boards consideration and agreement:

Workforce Strategy

- A summary of the overall workforce challenges– including workforce diversity and staff wellbeing – plans to address those challenges, and what success looks like.
- An outline of the impact of COVID on workforce challenges – highlighting where challenges have been exacerbated and/or where any new challenges have emerged as a result of COVID – plans to address those challenges, and what success looks like.
- Any examples of progress/ success – and how these have impacted services and patient care.
- Any examples where progress is not progressing as planned – and the approach to identifying and implementing mitigating actions.
- Clarity about the relationship and interdependencies within the Leeds health and care system; but also within the West Yorkshire ICB, neighbouring ICBs and nationally.
- Details of any actions that are needed to happen outside of the Leeds health and care system that are critical to the success of our plans.
- The role of the Leeds Academic Health Partnership in developing plans and monitoring progress and performance.

Waiting lists/ times

- Confirmation of the waiting list / waiting times across Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (LTHT), Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust (LCH) and Leeds and York Partnerships NHS Foundation Trust (LYPFT) – including details of 52+ week waits and 104+ week waits.
- Analysis of capacity issues associated with backlogs created during COVID and from higher referrals rates
- Impacts on primary care and social care
- How system working is impacting on addressing waiting lists/ times across Leeds

- Recent progress in addressing waiting lists/ times across the Leeds health and care system.
- Plans for addressing waiting lists/ times in the short, medium and longer term across LTHT, LCH and LYPFT, including risks and mitigations across those plans
- Governance arrangements for monitoring and reporting progress.

Mental Health Inquiry

- 14 The Scrutiny Board has previously considered a range of different aspects of mental health service provision.
- 15 During 2019/20, this included Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) provision, mental health services for adults and older people in Wetherby; and the development of the Leeds Mental Wellbeing Service (delivered by Leeds Community Health NHS Trust (LCH)).
- 16 Previously, the Board has also considered provision of Children’s Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and access to autism assessments and services.
- 17 At the Scrutiny Board’s initial meeting of 2022/23, held in June, responding to people’s mental health needs was one of the themes identified by the Board – with the following areas specifically highlighted as potential areas of inquiry:
- Responding to and managing increases and changes in demand for mental health services – specifically adolescent eating disorders and primary care referrals
 - Specific neurodiversity mental health pathways
 - Children’s Mental Health – specifically in relation to Autism and ADHD
- 18 To provide some overall context, it should be noted that the **Leeds Mental Health Strategy (2020-2025)** was approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board in February 2020. The strategy is an all-age strategy that covers how partners across Leeds Health and Care system plan to improve mental health and wellbeing from conception through to end of life. It also makes clear the connection and contribution other policy areas, such as housing or community safety, make towards people having good mental health. The [Leeds Mental Health Strategy \(2020-2025\)](#) has eight priorities and when considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board in February 2020, it was presented alongside a [draft mental health delivery plan](#).
- 19 Earlier in 2022, an update to the Leeds Mental Health Strategy (2020-2025) saw the addition of three further workstreams, the first of which focuses on COVID-19 recovery – in recognition of the pandemic having significantly worsened mental health and wellbeing for many people. Details of the mental health strategy priorities and workstreams are available on the Leeds Health and Care Partnership website [here](#).
- 20 In addition, the [Future in Mind Strategy \(2021-2026\)](#) is a Leeds plan that explains how different organisations and people are working together to improve mental health and emotional health for young people.
- 21 The details outlined above demonstrate the significant breadth of mental health as a specific topic for consideration by the Scrutiny Board. As such, it is proposed to hold an initial workshop to help enable the Board to explore the overall position of mental health service provision in Leeds, understand how those services are performing and what plans/ actions for improvement are currently in place. The aim of this workshop being to identify and scope specific areas of inquiry for the Board, while avoiding unnecessary duplication across other plans that might already be in place.

What impact will this proposal have?

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

23 Article 6 of the Council's Constitution includes a requirement for the Council's Scrutiny Officer to annually report to Council on how the authority has carried out and discharged its overview and scrutiny functions, The Boards work schedule will contribute to and support this requirement.

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

Health and Wellbeing Inclusive Growth Zero Carbon

24 The terms of reference of the Scrutiny Boards promote a strategic and outward looking Scrutiny function that focuses on the Best City Ambition.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

25 The Vision for Scrutiny states that Scrutiny Boards should seek the advice of the Scrutiny officer, the relevant Director(s) and Executive Member(s) about available resources prior to agreeing items of work. Relevant Directors and Executive Members were actively engaged in the initial meeting of the Board when considering sources of work and priorities for the Scrutiny Board for the current municipal year.

What are the resource implications?

26 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.

27 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.

28 Consequently, when establishing their work programmes Scrutiny Boards should:

- Seek the advice of the Scrutiny officer, relevant Directors and Executive Members about available resources;
- Avoid 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.

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

29 There are no direct risk management implications associated with this report.

What are the legal implications?

30 There are no specific legal implications associated with this report.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Analysis of potential work areas
- Appendix 2 – Latest work schedule of the Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles Scrutiny Board for the current municipal year, 2022/23.

- Appendix 3 – Draft minutes of the Executive Board meeting held on 27 July 2022.

Background papers

- None.