



People Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee Annual Report 2022/2023

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

I am pleased to give this short introduction to the summary of the Sub-Committee's work during the 2022-2023 municipal year. Details are given below of elements of the Sub-Committee's work this year including the first report from an Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee to the Council's Cabinet.

I would like to place on record my thanks to the other members of the Sub-Committee and all the Council officers who have supported the Sub-Committee's work this year.

I commend this annual report and am pleased to submit it to Full Council.

REMIT AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

The Sub-Committee is responsible for scrutinising the Council's Adult and Children services, Education services, Crime and Disorder services and public health service to name a few.

The People Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee is also responsible for scrutiny of the following areas:

- Drug, Alcohol & sexual Services
- Health & Wellbeing
- Health Overview & Scrutiny
- Adult Care
- Learning and Physical Disabilities
- Employment & Skills
- Education
- Child Protection
- Youth Services
- Fostering & Adoption Services
- Education Traded Services
- Early Years Services
- Looked after Children
- Media
- Communications
- Advertising

- Corporate Events
- Bereavement & Registration Services
- Crime & Disorder

The Members who served on the People Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee during the year were:

Councillor Jason Frost (Chairman)

Councillor Frankie Walker (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor David Taylor

Councillor Christine Smith

Councillor Joshua Chapman

Councillor Ray Best

Councillor Jackie McArdle

Councillor Julie Wilkes

Councillor Bryan Vincent

Councillor Linda Hawthorn

Councillor Laurance Garrard

Councillor Pat Brown

Councillor Darren Wise

PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE – REVIEW OF ACTIVITY, 2022/23 MUNICIPAL YEAR

1. Adult and Children Services Complaints and Compliments

The Sub-Committee scrutinised the complaints and compliments the adult and children services. The Sub-Committee questioned officers over the number of and nature of the complaints and how they could be reduced in the next quarter and next year.

2. Topic Groups

The Members of the Sub-Committee formed various topic groups covering a wide range of topics, for example, SEND provisions for children and adults and school readiness. All topic group lead members gave updates throughout the year on their research and findings.

3. Policing numbers and incidents

The Sub-Committee asked for the Borough's new Chief Superintendent to present before the Sub-Committee the position of policing numbers within the borough. The Chief Supt presented the numbers and challenged facing the Borough's policing unit to which the Sub-Committee asked for a 6 month update and other policing reports have stemmed from that.

4. Healthwatch Havering

The Sub-Committee, as part of their Health meetings, received updates on various issues such COVID and disability support including their annual report.

5. Community Phlebotomy

At a meeting in September, the Sub-Committee received information and scrutinised the position of the community phlebotomy services and noted the changes to the service following the COVID-19 pandemic.

6. Health Issues

The Sub-Committee scrutinised various areas of health issues within Havering. It was explained to members that the access to Long Covid services was the best in Havering, reaching national and international news. Members also scrutinised enhanced access to primary care, GP access hubs, health inequalities, life expectancy and still births/ low birth rates.

7. The Corporate Parenting Panel

The Corporate Parenting Panel met on three occasions during the year, ended May 2023. One of the highlights of the year was the Children's Takeover session that took place in February with about fifteen Looked After Children presenting to Members and officers.

The Topic Groups supported by officers are currently still in place to scrutinise the implementation of the new Corporate Parenting Strategy. These groups focus on Education and Training, Health, Housing/Accommodation and Participation.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

None – narrative report only.

Legal implications and risks:

None – narrative report only.

Human Resources implications and risks:

None – narrative report only.

Equalities implications and risks:

While the work of the Sub-Committee can impact on all members of the community, there are no implications arising from this specific report which is a narrative of the Board's work over the past year.

Environmental and Climate Change Implications and Risks

None – narrative report only.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.