



Scrutiny Board

27 January 2015

Report title	Update on Reviews and Inquiries 2014-15	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Paul Sweet Governance and Performance	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Kevin O'Keefe, Governance	
Originating service	Scrutiny and Transparency	
Accountable employee(s)	Adam Hadley Tel Email	Scrutiny and Transparency Manager, 01902 554026 adam.hadley@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by		

Recommendation(s) for noting:

The Scrutiny Board is asked to note the update on the Scrutiny reviews and inquiries for 2014-15.

1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Scrutiny Board on the progress of reviews and inquiries in the municipal year 2014-15.

2.0 Background

2.1 The annual Scrutiny planning session was held on 9 June 2014, at which Councillors, youth councillors and senior employees discussed a long list of potential topics for major reviews and inquiries.

2.2 Topics were then further considered and refined by a sub-group of Councillors before consideration by Scrutiny Board. On 17 June 2014, Scrutiny Board agreed three reviews for 2014-15:

- Infant mortality
- Employability and skills
- Channel shift

3.0 Progress against each review/inquiry

3.1 Progress against each review/inquiry is summarised in the table at Appendix A.

4.0 Financial implications

4.1 There is a Scrutiny budget to support the investigation of issues highlighted by Councillors through the work programmes of the Panels and the reviews and inquiries. There are no direct financial implications linked to the recommendations in this report.

[GE/12012015/F]

5.0 Legal implications

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

[TS/12012015/J]

6.0 Equalities implications

6.1 Equalities issues are considered within the scoping of all Scrutiny reviews and inquiries.

7.0 Environmental implications

7.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

8.0 Schedule of background papers

8.1 17.6.14 – Scrutiny Board

Appendix A – Update on Reviews

Review: Infant mortality		
Chair	Membership	Scrutiny Officer
Cllr Claire Darke	Cllr Philip Bateman Cllr Ian Claymore Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre Cllr Rita Potter Cllr Judith Rowley Cllr Bert Turner Cllr Patricia Patten Cllr Wendy Thompson Cllr Richard Whitehouse	Earl Piggott-Smith
Progress Update		
<p>The review group received a detailed briefing from the Director of Public Health on definitions of infant mortality and the underlying causes of death of babies within 12 months of birth. The briefing paper has helped to inform the work of the review group.</p> <p>The review group agreed draft terms of reference and a list of key questions. The aim of the questions is to get an overall view of the work being done individually and collectively to reduce the rate of infant mortality.</p> <p>The review group sent a short questionnaire to members of the Infant Mortality Review Group which has representatives of all the key agencies involved:</p> <p>The following witnesses have given verbal evidence to the review group:</p>		

- Dawn Lewis, Matron Maternity- Antenatal/Postnatal Services
- Dr Angela Moore, Community Paediatrician
- Anne Macleod - Manager - Healthy Lifestyles Department - stop smoking service
- Ros Jervis
Director of Public Health
- Helen Sullivan
Consultant Obstetrician
Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust
- Sarah Brackwell
Health Visiting Service Manager
Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust

The review group have focused on the impact of issues such as smoking, poverty and deprivation, support for new mothers, mental illness and late presentation and how they affect the work of local agencies.

The review group has raised concerns about the funding formula which is based partly on the number of births in area, with insufficient weight to the impact of deprivation on Wolverhampton, and the staff resources available.

The review group has agreed dates for two more evidence sessions.

The review group has arranged a visit to the neo-natal unit and the midwifery team at Royal Wolverhampton Hospital Trust on 30.1.15.

Representatives of charities working with families affected by the issues will be invited to give evidence to the review. A representative of SANDS (still birth and neo natal death charity) has provisionally agreed to attend the meeting on 2.3.15 to give evidence.

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Sarah Fellows, Mental Health Commissioning Manager, BCPFT, will be attending a future evidence session to brief the review group on the support available for pregnant women with mental health issues.

Review: Employability and skills		
Chair	Membership	Scrutiny Officer
Cllr Ian Angus	Cllr Payal Bedi Cllr Jasbinder Dehar Cllr Mark Evans Cllr Christopher Haynes Cllr Arun Photay Cllr John Rowley Cllr Stephen Simkins Cllr Tersaim Singh Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman Cllr Martin Waite Cllr Daniel Warren	Deborah Breedon
Progress Update The Employability and Skills Scrutiny Review Group has met on five occasions to receive evidence and focus on the need to consider the challenge of high levels of unemployment alongside low skill levels amongst the local population. Evidence received : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Setting the scale of the challenge for Wolverhampton.• Current work - Job Centre Plus, Talent Match, City Deal, the Employability Partnership and the Youth Council.• Economic Partnerships and inward investment – The Chamber of Commerce and the Council’s Enterprise and Skills Team in supporting the growth in employment opportunities and employability and skills development for local people• The right jobs and the right skills in the City• Skills training from providers and partners in adult education, college and university relating to gaps in provision and coverage Members of the review group have attended a ERDF SEED Celebrating Enterprise event to celebrate the success of local enterprise on 27 November 2014 organised by Access 2 Business (A2B) and SWEDA and took part in a tour of job clubs and the job centre on 4		

December 2014, meeting voluntary sector providers and service users during job club sessions, English language class (ESOL) and computer use support and advice sessions.

Enterprise and Business Scrutiny Panel on 2 December 2014 received an update on the work of the Scrutiny Review group.

The findings of the Review Group were considered at 11 December 2014 meeting and the Chair, Cllr Ian Angus presented the findings to the Skills Commission at its meeting 6 January 2015.

The scrutiny review group met on 7 January 2015 to draw conclusions and draft recommendations to Cabinet. The group received feedback from the Skills Commission which welcomed the findings of the scrutiny review of employability and skills which has helped the Skills Commission to focus on what needs to be done in terms of moving forward.

The review group will reconvene on 29 January 2015 to sign off the draft report and refer the report and recommendations to Cabinet 11 March 2015.

Review: Channel Shift		
Chair	Membership	Officer
Cllr Jonathan Yardley	Cllr Harbans Bagri, Cllr Ian Brookfield, Cllr Paula Brookfield, Cllr Barry Findlay, Cllr Julie Hodgkiss, Cllr Keith Inston, Cllr Christine Mills, Cllr Peter O'Neill, Cllr Zahid Shah, Cllr Paul Singh, Cllr Andrew Wynne	Laura Gilyead
Progress Update		
<p>Several meetings have taken place. Evidence has been received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paul O'Rourke, Channel Shift Manager: Digital by Design ethos (25 September 2014)• Derek Nott, PA Consultants (23 October 2014)• Andy Hoare, Head of Service – ICT, CRM Solution (27 November 2014)• Tim Clark, Senior Communications Advisor, Social Media (27 November 2014)• Ian Fegan, Head of Communications, consulting citizens (27 November 2014) <p>Some members have visited the contact centre, City Direct, to learn about the current systems used and to understand the work which they undertake.</p> <p>Another meeting is scheduled on 22 January 2015 to receive a demonstration of the Net Call automated telephone system to be used and will be updated on the modules being developed and the channel shift work to date.</p>		

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