

Vulnerable Adults, Health and Communities Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Date:	Thursday 17 October 2024
Classification:	General Release
Title:	2024/2025 Work Programme
Report of:	Head of Governance and Councillor Liaison
Wards Involved:	All
Policy Context:	All
Report Author and Contact Details:	Linda Hunting – Policy and Scrutiny Advisor lhunting@westminster.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report asks the Vulnerable Adults, Health and Communities Policy and Scrutiny Committee (“the Committee”) to discuss topics for its work programme.
- 1.2 This report also considers the work of the Committee since its last meeting on 16 July 2024.

2. Formal Meeting Dates for the 2024/2025 Municipal Year

- 2.1 The Committee is advised that the scheduled meeting dates for the 2024/2025 year are:
 - 26 November 2024; and
 - 4 March 2025

3. Background

- 3.1 The Policy and Scrutiny team have supported the Committee in creating the work programme and the Committee has considered items on those areas where the Council is currently working to develop new policy, where policies previously implemented are ready for strategic review or where scrutiny plays an overall role in assurance. The overall emphasis is to provide scrutiny with maximum opportunity to have impact and influence Council policy.

- 3.4 When drawing up the work programme, the Committee considered the vision and purpose of scrutiny at Westminster.

Scrutiny is a vital function to promote transparency and accountability. On behalf of Westminster's communities and stakeholders, local non-Executive Councillors will endeavour to ensure services in the City not only meet people's needs but enhance lived experiences by:

1. *Championing the best possible outcomes for communities and stakeholders.*
2. *Holding the Council, its partner organisations and external bodies to account for decisions taken and the impacts on our communities.*
3. *Examining Council priorities, actively engaging in policy development and offering constructive challenge prior to decisions being taken.*
4. *Working strategically across the city to focus our efforts on policy and service areas where scrutiny can make the biggest impact.*
5. *Demonstrating integrity and commitment by adhering to the Nolan Principles of Public Life.*

4. Work Programme for 2024/25

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to discuss and propose topics of interest for the next municipal year's work programme in 2024/25.
- 4.2 The Committee's attention should be drawn to the Terms of Reference, set out in Appendix 2, which may assist the Committee in identifying issues to be included in the work programme.
- 4.3 The Committee met on 13 May 2024 to discuss items for its work programme after the Cabinet Member Annual Updates held between Monday 15 April to Thursday 25 April 2024.
- 4.4 When considering the work programme, and agreeing an overall programme of scrutiny activity, the Committee should have regard to whether the work programme is achievable in terms of both Officer and Member time, taking into account that the Committee is scheduled to meet four times per year. Members are also reminded that it is advisable to hold some capacity in reserve for any urgent issues that might arise.

5. Task Groups and Single Member Studies

- 5.1 Each Committee has discretion to establish Task Groups and Single Member Studies to examine key issues in more detail. The Committee is asked to consider whether they would like to establish a Task Group or commission a Single Member Study. The Committee should be advised that both Members and Officers will only be able to successfully take part in and support a finite number of Task Groups at any one time.

6. Monitoring recommendations and actions

- 6.1 The recommendations and actions arising from each meeting are recorded in the Recommendation and Action Tracker attached as Appendix 3. Members are

invited to review the work undertaken in response to those recommendations and actions.

7. Committee activity

7.1 Since the previous meeting of the Committee on, 16 July 2024, the Committee has received the following reports:

- A written summary of the key findings from the Quarterly Performance Report and Finance Monitor from the Audit & Performance Committee that relate to this Committee.
- Community Independence Service (CIS) Briefing Note
- Aids and Adaptations Briefing Note
- An update on change of control at AT Medics Ltd from NHS NWL
- Healthwatch Kensington & Chelsea patient experience report, April – June 2024 and Healthwatch Westminster patient experience report, April – June 2024
- Healthwatch research report - Intermediate care insights in the bi-borough
- Healthwatch research report - The needs and experiences of homeless communities accessing primary mental healthcare services in Westminster
- Healthwatch research report - Winter Wellbeing and Vaccine Hesitancy
- An update on the work of the Inner West London Mental Health Services Reconfiguration Joint Health Overview Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC)
- The Crime and Disorder report and appendices which went to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the Safer Westminster Partnership

7.2 The Committee has also carried out the following site visit:

- Paddington Green Health Centre and NHS NW London Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Healthcare Central London (HCL) / Capital House NW1

If you have any queries about this report or wish to inspect any of the background papers, please contact Linda Hunting.

lhunting@westminster.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Work Programme
Appendix 2: Terms of Reference
Appendix 3: Committee Tracker