

# Vulnerable Adults, Health and Communities Policy and Scrutiny Committee

<b>Date:</b>	Thursday 26 November 2024
<b>Classification:</b>	General Release
<b>Title:</b>	<b>2024/2025 Work Programme</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	Head of Governance and Councillor Liaison
<b>Wards Involved:</b>	All
<b>Policy Context:</b>	All
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## 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 17 October 2024.

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

- 2.1 The Committee is advised that the remaining scheduled meeting date for the 2024/2025 year is:
  - 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 met on 22 October 2024 to discuss items for its work programme after the Cabinet Member Mid-Year Reviews held in October 2024.
- 4.2 When considering its work programme, the Committee had regard to its Terms of Reference, set out in Appendix 2, Member and Officer time, the number of times it is due to meet this municipal year, and what items scrutiny would have the most impact on.
- 4.3 The Committee is reminded that its work programme is flexible to allow for any urgent issues that might arise.
- 4.4 The Committee is asked to discuss and propose any new topics of interest for the Committee's work programme for the remainder of 2024/25, or for the next municipal year, 2025/26.

#### **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, 17 October 2024, the Committee has received the following reports:

- A written briefing on sexual violence and women's safety outlining the work undertaken by the Council to tackle sexual violence against women delivered by Community Safety and Specialist Services, in conjunction with statutory, external and voluntary sector partners.
- A written briefing on Aids and Adaptations as a follow up to the Committee's interest in the Community Independence Service.
- The Annual Director of Public Health Report 2024, which focusses on oral health and outlines the impact of poor oral health, the local picture, how to improve oral health, and the range of local activity the Council is commissioning to support our residents.
- The October 2024 update from the Care Quality Commission
- Information (as requested) about the NHS North West London (NHS NWL) and the Integrated Care Board (ICB)
- The October 2024 Partner Update from Imperial College Healthcare

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

- A tasting session to sample the various meal options for the second-year delivery of the Winter Hot Meals Programme with the provider, Care Premier.
- A visit to Victoria Library to speak with officers and external partners of the programme delivery for Changing Futures, to better understand how vulnerable people are supported from multiple services in Westminster.

**If you have any queries about this report or wish to inspect any of the background papers, please contact Linda Hunting**  
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Appendix 1: Work Programme

Appendix 2: Terms of Reference

Appendix 3: Committee Tracker