

# Overview & Scrutiny



## SEFTON COUNCIL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2010/11

Sefton Council 



# Overview & Scrutiny

**'Valuing  
Improvement'**

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# Overview & Scrutiny Management Board 2010/11



**Councillor Richard Hands**  
*Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board*

Eight meetings of the Overview & Scrutiny Management Board took place during 2010/11. The Board was consulted on issues such as the draft statutory guidance on the Duty to Respond to Petitions, Performance Management Framework, the Localism Bill and the implications of the NHS White Paper.

During 2010/11, the Board received regular update briefings on developments regarding the Strategic Budget Review and the Transformation agenda. Members were particularly pleased that the relevant trade unions had continued to work with the Council in order to achieve the considerable savings. This work will continue to be an integral part of the Management Board's remit.

The Board co-ordinated the offer of a work shop event for Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Performance and Corporate Services) which was supported by Officers from the Finance Department. This was set up in order that Members might receive guidance regarding framing financial questions for scrutiny purposes. This was well received by Members.

Communication has always been a key consideration for the Management Board and some time ago the Board agreed that Cabinet Member reports should be submitted to the relevant O&S Committee, in order to contribute towards the relationship between the Executive and Overview & Scrutiny Members. This process will remain in place despite Cabinet Member Decisions being managed electronically. In addition, the Board took the decision to have the Minutes from meetings of the Overview & Scrutiny Management Board circulated to all Members, to encourage communication and good relationships.

Health Inequalities became a major issue of concern for the Board this year and Members recognised the link between health and general well-being, with other areas of strategic importance, such as employment, education, housing and environments. Last year Sefton succeeded in a bid to become a Scrutiny Development Area, in a programme organised by the Centre for Public Scrutiny, to raise the profile of overview & scrutiny as a tool to promote community well-being and assist Councils & Partners in addressing health inequalities within their local communities. To support this achievement, the Board established a cross-cutting Working Group, comprised of the four Chairs of the Overview & Scrutiny



Committees, to scrutinise health inequalities within the Borough. This work has now been completed and as well as the Working Group's Final Report, The Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) has prepared a case study of the work undertaken in Sefton with a DVD.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Lead Member, Councillor Anthony Hill, for his excellent Leadership skills and the sterling work carried out by the Group. I would also like to thank all our partners involved in the project with special thanks to the three schools who contributed to the project.

The Overview & Scrutiny Away Day, 21 June 2010, event went well and resulted in an Action Plan for Overview and Scrutiny.

The main issue for all Overview and Scrutiny Committees was the proposal to adopt an alternative approach to business. The Management Board has offered support and guidance where necessary, in the promotion of mini reviews/single item meetings with a view to being more productive and adding value with reduced resources. This has been welcomed and embraced by all Committees and we hope to build on the successes from the previous year to ensure we continually improve.

It's worth highlighting that Committees have now moved away from receiving reports "for information".

The Management Board, I'm sure, will look forward to working with the Cabinet Member for Performance, Governance and Commissioning in 2011/12 on the Governance Review as it emerges. This will include a review of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Terms of Reference.

I would like to thank the Overview and Scrutiny Team for all their hard work during the year and I am sure the new Chair will enjoy working with the team as I have.

I think the forthcoming year will be extremely busy for Overview and Scrutiny in coordinating our prioritisation of Council services, ensuring we continue to deliver services that meet the needs and expectations of our residents/partners and clients, within the set budget available.

**Councillor Richard Hands**  
**June 2011**



# Performance and Corporate Services



**Councillor Anne Ibbs**  
*Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee*  
**Performance and Corporate Services**

**On behalf of the Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Performance & Corporate Services) it gives me great pleasure to introduce the 2010/11 Annual Report.**

During the year the Committee has met eight times and considered issues such as the Transformation Programme, Members ICT, Pay and Grading Review, the Council's Asset Management Plan and the development of national policies such as the Localism Bill.

## **Transformation Programme**

This year the Committee received regular updates on the progress of the Transformation Programme. Unfortunately there was little time for the Committee Members to be closely involved in the proposal stages, due to the pressing timetable for agreeing and implementing the budget savings, but the reports were helpful for Members to understand the process being undertaken, and Members did agree that the programme for 2011/12 would have built-in arrangements for this Committee to be closely involved from the beginning stages of proposal developments.

## **Members ICT**

This year the Committee has spent a lot of time trying to ensure that the Members ICT provision and support arrangements are effective for the authority, particularly at a time when the use of electronic work and decision making would be making a financial contribution to the budget saving process. Representatives from arvato and Sefton's Client Contract Manager have also attended Committee meetings this year, and we have had some successes in improving the provision and support arrangements. We do, however, feel that this issue should be monitored in the future to ensure that all Members are happy with the facilities, and to ensure that any electronic decision making processes are not affected by adverse ICT issues.

## **Bribery Act Working Group**

Following the announcement of the Bribery Act 2010 the Committee decided that a review would be undertaken to ensure that the authority would be able to meet all of its legislative requirements in a timely manner. Consequently a Working Group was established, led by Councillor Gibson, and supported by officers in the Legal Department and Audit Team. My thanks are extended to Councillor Gibson for his hard work with this review, and for the officers who have worked to ensure that the authority has fully met its obligations in a very timely manner.



### **Health Inequalities Working Group**

As a Member of the Health Inequalities Working Group (along with the other Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and nominated representatives from the Labour Group) I have been involved in the review of health inequalities across Sefton. Members of the Committee received an update of the progress of this review at every Committee meeting, and I personally feel that this approach of involving Members from all Committees in an in-depth review has been extremely beneficial in understanding the complex issues and processes that exist. We particularly welcomed the opportunity to visit different Wards and engage with representatives of the different communities. I would welcome the extension of such an approach for future reviews undertaken by our Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

### **The Year Ahead**

The Committee will continue to make progress on the following priorities over the coming year:

- Monitoring the impact of the Transformation Programme upon the delivery of services to the people of Sefton, and those who work for Sefton;
- Input, and monitoring of budget saving exercises in this financial year;
- Ensuring that the provision and support of Member ICT will deliver the efficiencies required under the budget saving exercise;

On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our work over the past year, and I would personally like to thank all Members of the Committee for their support to me over the past year. My thanks are also extended to our Overview and Scrutiny Officer, Michele Wainwright.

I envisage the forthcoming year to be extremely busy and challenging for the Committee, given the difficult times that are currently being experienced by local government and extend my support to the future Chair, and Members of this Committee in addressing these concerns.

**Councillor Anne Ibbs**  
**June 2011**



# Children's Services



**Councillor Richard Hands**  
*Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee*  
**Children's Services**

## **It gives me great pleasure to introduce Sefton Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services) Annual Report 2010/11 to the Council.**

This year, the Committee has continued to fulfil all of its functions in scrutinising and reviewing the Council's activities in relation to the following five positive outcomes for Children and Young People: That Children and Young People in Sefton:-

- Are healthy
- Are safe
- Enjoy their learning opportunities
- Reach their goals
- Make a positive contribution

During the course of the year one Working Group and one mini review have undertaken investigations into particular areas of the Children's Services Portfolio. The Committee has also considered numerous reports and pre-scrutinised several key decisions.

### **The Children and Adolescent Mental Health Working Group**

The above Working Group set about scoping its review in the Autumn of 2010. Members agreed that as joint Commissioner, with Sefton PCT, that it was our responsibility to ensure the CAMH Service was tailored to the needs and met expectations of the Service User.

Working Group Members gathered an immense amount of information to assist them throughout the Review. They met and interviewed parents/guardians of Service Users, Acting Chief Executive of PCT, Director of Children's Social Care, Children's Trust Director, Assistant Director (Inclusion), Service Manager (Looked After Children), Children's Centre Manager, Kingsmeadow, General Manager, Alder Hey Children's Hospital, and the G.P. Consortia North and South. It became apparent, from those witness interviews, that some fundamental changes were required and representatives from Alder Hey Children's Hospital addressed some of those issues as they emerged which were welcomed by the Working Group.



The Review took nine months to complete, this illustrates the complexity of the service area we were reviewing. I think all Members would agree that it was a piece of work that required a great deal of sensitivity whilst arriving at the right conclusions with sound recommendations for the Children and Young People of Sefton.

The Review resulted in 14 recommendations and will be considered by the Cabinet. The Committee will monitor the progress of the recommendations through regular update reports from the Strategic Director for People.

### **Early Years Funding Formula – Mini Review**

The Committee agreed, after receiving a report regarding the early years funding formula, that a “mini review” be arranged in order that the subject could be examined in more detail.

The mini review was useful in providing Members with the right information for them to scrutinise the work done in relation to designing and implementing a single local funding formula for funding the free early years entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds across all sectors.

In addition to the above Working Group and Mini Review the Committee carried out its important function of examining services that had undergone Ofsted Inspection and Challenging the Department’s readiness for inspection.

The following topics were identified for review by Members and were the subject of reports to the Committee:

- Children & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS);
- Post-16 Funding – Transfer of Responsibilities to Local Authority;
- Management Structure of Children, Schools and Families Directorate;
- Parenting Strategy;
- Nursery Admissions & Excess Pupil Numbers;
- Special Educational Needs System;
- Personal Social Services & Sefton Young Carers;
- Children’s Social Care – Serious Case Review;
- Revenue Expenditure, Capital Programme & Performance, 2009/10;
- Early Years Funding Formula;
- Increase in Infant Class Numbers;
- Children, Schools and Families – I.T. Single Child Record Programme Scheme;
- Post –16 Annual Travel Passes – Policy Review;
- Update on the Youth Offending Service;
- Outline Business Case for Post – 16 Learners with Learning Disabilities and/or Disabilities;
- Update on Kirwan House Children’s Home, Southport,
- Annual Report on Complaints Regarding Children’s Services;
- Performance of Schools at Key Stage 4 & 5, 2010;
- Re-inspection of Youth Offending Work in Sefton;





- Update on Fostering Services; and
- Emotional & Mental Health of Looked After Children.

The Committee was also delighted to receive the Public Health Annual Report: Fair Society, Healthy Lives.

Throughout the Year the Committee received reports from the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, which informed Members of the work he had undertaken.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has also been given the opportunity to pre-scrutinise items from the Council's Key Decision Forward Plan. The Forward Plan is submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of the Work Programme update. The pre-scrutiny process assists the Cabinet and Cabinet Members to make effective decisions by examining issues beforehand and making recommendations prior to a determination being made.

I am very proud to also report that at a recent Ofsted Inspection of the Council's Safeguarding and Looked After Children's Services it was reported that

"The Scrutiny Committee has an innovative approach to selecting topics of its annual work programme, which includes performance reports and also listening to the views and opinions of young people on what's important to them".

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee and Officers for their support in this work.

### **Health Inequalities Working Group**

As Chair of both this Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and along with the three other Overview and Scrutiny Chairs (Councillors Hill, Ibbs and Papworth) and Labour Members Councillors Cummins and McGinnity, we were appointed to the Health Inequalities Working Group. The purpose of the Working Group was to explore the issues affecting Health Inequalities across the Borough and make recommendations to improve service delivery and help to address those inequalities.

### **The Year Ahead**

I look forward to the new Municipal Year as a Spokesperson on the Committee and would like to welcome Councillor Brennan as Chair of the Committee. We look forward to working as critical friend to our Cabinet Member and partners. The Committee will be examining Key Priorities for the Council and examining areas for us to investigate in order that the services we provide are continually improved to benefit all who live and work in Sefton.

As Chair I would like to thank the Officers who have contributed to this Committee specifically for their assistance and support whilst conducting the reviews. In particular I would like to thank all the people who contributed to the Working Groups and Focus Groups.



I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Committee Members for their hard work throughout the year.

I especially would like to thank the sterling efforts of our Scrutiny Team and, in particular, Ruth Harrison who has been a tremendous help and encouragement to me as Chair.

**Councillor Richard Hands**  
**June 2011**



## Regeneration and Environmental Services



**Councillor Peter Papworth**  
*Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee*  
**Regeneration and Environmental Services**

**It gives me great pleasure to introduce Sefton Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration & Environmental Services) Annual Report 2010/11.**

It has been a pleasure and privilege to chair this committee again during the year.

We have made a good deal of progress in our procedure, with verbal reports and one-session investigations mostly replacing wads of tired paper and repetitive meetings. We were greatly helped by the Head of Overview and Scrutiny, Michele Wainwright, who doubled as our Scrutiny Officer and did much to ensure that our time was well spent.

We have been pleased by the success of some of our previous work. Our suggestions for giving wider notice of Licensing applications have been adopted by the Council and are now recommended as the national model; our review of Libraries assets was a big help whilst the budget was being reviewed; the restored Park Rangers have been widely welcomed; our views on Refuse Collection have been – or in the case of plastic and cardboard, will be – implemented and well received.

The Committee is actively monitoring the progress of the 29 recommendations from the Watercourse Maintenance and Flooding Working Group. The Floods and Water Management Act 2010 has placed a number of duties on Local Authorities, in particular those that are Lead Local Flooding Authorities. The Committee will continue to monitor compliance of that Act.

As chairman, I have continued to attend Cabinet Member meetings when possible, so as to keep abreast of developments and to build relationships with the four Cabinet Members whose portfolios are within our Terms of Reference. As part of that process we have welcomed the introduction of “reports from cabinet members” into our agenda. This ensures that the Committee is briefed upon current Cabinet Member issues. It also allows Committee to make judgements and offer assistance to Cabinet Member where they agree it's required.



## Meetings

The Committee met nine times during the year, and we were grateful to a substantial number of people who came to answer our questions. Besides various Council officers, we had senior representatives from (among others):

Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority  
The Environment Agency  
Sefton Chamber of Commerce  
Dowhigh Ltd  
Tesco plc  
Department for Employment/Job Centre Plus  
Sainsbury's plc

## Working Groups – Rimrose Valley

The Rimrose Valley Working Group (which aims to increase public use) has met several times and toured the area twice so far. There is more to do, and I am grateful to Councillor Kevin Cluskey for the very active leadership he has shown in this work. We have to solve a dilemma in the Valley: on the one hand, it is a quite extraordinary haven for wildlife and deserves to be better appreciated; on the other hand it is vulnerable to misuse and over-use. This work will continue into 2011/12.

## Topics

Among the issues we have considered are these:

Worklessness  
Household Waste Recycling Centres – permit scheme  
Crosby Village Centre redevelopment  
The protocol for siting of mobile phone masts on Council land  
Updating the strategy for parks and green space management  
Flooding in Seaforth (July 2010)  
Outcomes of the Draft Greenbelt Study  
The “core strategy” for building new homes  
Renewable Energy schemes  
Road surfacing  
“Winter Service” (ie snow clearance) policy and outcome  
Joint Municipal waste management planning  
The annual Public Health report  
North Liverpool & South Sefton regeneration framework  
Implications of the Floods and Water Management Act 2010

## Miscellaneous

My role as chairman of this committee results in my appointment to the Environment Agency's North West Region's Flooding & Coastal Committee, which occasionally takes me to various parts of the region, and offers much interesting work.



### **The Year Ahead**

No doubt we will continue to prosecute the various matters listed above, and I very much hope that committee members – particularly the several who are newly elected as councillors – will seize the opportunity to examine other aspects of Council policy and performance. There is no shortage of potential challenges!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Committee Members for their hard work and support throughout the year.

**Councillor Peter Papworth**  
**June 2011**



# Health and Social Care



**Councillor Anthony Hill**  
*Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee*  
**Health and Social Care**

**I am delighted to introduce the 2010/11 Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Health and Social Care).**

The full Committee met nine times and this report is presented to the Council and a wider audience beyond in the hope that the information it contains will contribute to the debate about the provision of health and adult social services for Sefton residents and their development, improvement and access.

## **Health Partners**

The Committee received presentations from our health partners including Southport & Ormskirk NHS Trust, Aintree University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and The Walton Centre for Neurology & Neurosurgery NHS Trust, Mersey Care NHS Trust and North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

At each meeting the Committee received presentations and updates from Sefton Primary Care Trust (NHS Sefton). These included Chlamydia screening, breastfeeding, residents' healthchecks, flu vaccinations campaign, phlebotomy services, pharmacy services, coping with winter pressures, children's services in Southport, Litherland Town Hall Health Centre, supporting hospital patients to quit smoking, South Sefton Dental Centre, Bootle, drink related health problems, children's orthodontic services, memory road shows to raise awareness of Alzheimers disease and dementia, Be Sensible in the Sun and Sefton residents' lifestyle survey.

## **Working Groups and Visits**

The Dementia Working Group had its recommendations approved by Cabinet at the beginning of the Municipal Year.

Progress on the recommendations of previous Working Groups on access to Social Care and Supported Housing Needs were received by the Committee during the year.

Members served on the cross cutting Working Group on Health Inequalities in Sefton and on the Joint Scrutiny Committee with Liverpool & Knowsley members examining



the North Mersey Future Health Care Programme which included developments at Alder Hey Children's Hospital and the Royal Liverpool Hospital.

I would like to thank all members who served on Working Groups for their hard work.

Members visited Aintree University Hospital and Southport & Formby District General Hospitals. These gave members the opportunity to meet with our health partners and to see health services in action.

### **Homeopathy Services**

Following a petition and presentations, the Committee for the first time exercised its power to refer the issue to the Secretary of State for Health on the grounds that NHS Sefton did not consult adequately with service users or the Committee on the withdrawal of the NHS homeopathy service in Sefton.

### **Adult Social Care**

The area of Adult Social Care was served by the attendance of officers from the Council's Health & Social Care Directorate.

Their reports and presentations included the annual inspection of adult social care, the department's final accounts, the assessment of commissioning for adult social care, and Sefton Carers Strategy & telecare.

The regular attendance of the Cabinet Member - Health & Social Care has been particularly useful when Cabinet Member reports have been on the agenda.

### **Other Issues and Strategies Considered**

Sefton's Dementia Strategy & Sefton's Strategy for Older Citizens were presented as was Sefton's Annual Public Health report.

Following the Independent Clinical Review of Children's Services in Southport, members of the Committee served on the Oversight Group established to consider viable options for the future delivery of paediatric services in Southport.

### **The Year Ahead**

1. We will continue to develop strong working relationships with all our health partners. We believe that we are recognised as a critical friend and will continue to work with them to monitor and develop health services for the benefit of all Sefton residents.
2. We will face up to the challenges that the continuing financial pressures facing the Council and our health partners as well as any changes that NHS reforms may bring.
3. Above all we will continue our work learning about, scrutinising and, where necessary, challenging health and adult care services affecting Sefton residents.



## **Finally**

I would like to thank the representatives of the many health organisations and partners including senior officers and members of Hospital NHS Trusts, Sefton LINKS, Sefton CVS as well as members of the public for their regular attendance at and contributions to the work of the Committee.

My special thanks to Dr. Janet Atherton for all her advice and support and to Charlie Barker, Colin Speight and Bob McConnell from Adult Social Care who have now retired, for their many years supporting the Committee.

My particular appreciation to all members of the Committee for the enthusiastic way that they have contributed to our work and above all to the Scrutiny Team, especially Debbie Campbell, our Overview & Scrutiny officer for her efficiency, support, enthusiasm and hard work.

**Councillor Anthony Hill**  
**June 2011**





During 2010/11, the following Members served on the Committees indicated:-

### Overview & Scrutiny Management Board

Councillor Hands (Chair)  
Councillor Cummins  
Councillor Hill  
Councillor Hough  
Councillor Ibbs  
Councillor Larkin  
Councillor McGinnity  
Councillor McIvor  
Councillor McGuire  
Councillor Papworth  
Councillor Pearson

### Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services)

Councillor Hands (Chair)  
Councillor Bradshaw  
Councillor Byrom  
Councillor Cummins  
Councillor Dorgan  
Councillor Glover  
Councillor Hough  
Councillor Hubbard  
Councillor Larkin  
Councillor C. Mainey  
Councillor S. Mainey  
Councillor McIvor  
Father D. Seddon - Church Diocesan Representative  
Mrs S. Cain - Parent Governor Representative

### Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Health & Social Care)

Councillor Hill (Chair)  
Councillor L. Cluskey  
Councillor Howe  
Councillor Ibbs  
Councillor T. Jones  
Councillor Larkin  
Councillor McGinnity  
Councillor McGuire  
Councillor Pearson  
Councillor Veidman  
Councillor Webster



## Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Performance & Corporate Services)

Councillor Ibbs (Chair)  
Councillor Byrne  
Councillor Byrom  
Councillor Carr  
Councillor Fenton  
Councillor Gibson  
Councillor Kelly  
Councillor McGinnity  
Councillor Papworth  
Councillor Shaw  
Councillor Weavers

## Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration & Environmental Services)

Councillor Papworth (Chair)  
Councillor K. Cluskey  
Councillor Fenton  
Councillor Gustafson  
Councillor Hardy  
Councillor Hubbard  
Councillor C. Mainey  
Councillor S. Mainey  
Councillor McIvor  
Councillor Pearson  
Councillor Weavers





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## Overview & Scrutiny



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