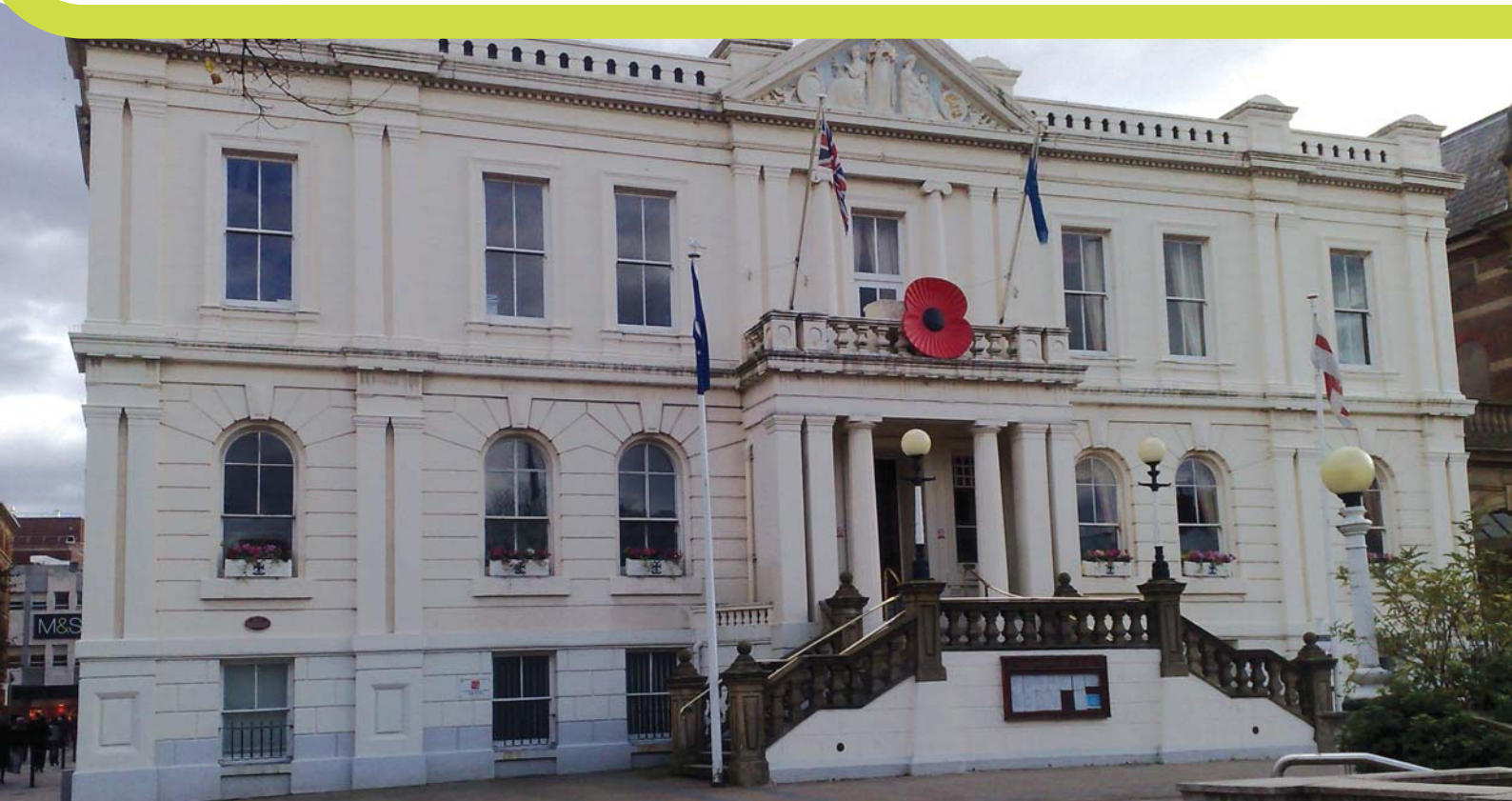


Overview & Scrutiny



Sefton Council
Overview and Scrutiny

Sefton Council 

Annual Report 2008/09

Valuing Improvement - Overview & Scrutiny

In its first year the Overview & Scrutiny Management Board (which is all the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of our Overview & Scrutiny Committees) has overseen the development of the function and achieved the aspirations that were set out in our 2008/09 Improvement Plan. During this Municipal Year the Management Board has succeeded in:

- addressing issues related to the Key Decision Forward Plan
- further developing the relationship with our Cabinet Members
- undertaking a review of Elected Member Support
- establishing a robust process of agreeing work programmes and reviews
- co-ordinating Member responses to Government policy, including the consultation on the Government White Paper
- hosting a self-assessment workshop for all Members, and developing an Improvement Plan for 2009/10, based on Members' feedback
- participating in the Council-wide governance review

Challenges remain in 2009/10 for the Members of the Management Board and the following is only an example of the issues that will be addressed during next year:

- Engaging our partners with the scrutiny process and acting as a 'critical friend' for partner organizations
- Introduction, and review, of the Councillor Call for Action
- Implementing the outcomes of the Council-wide governance review
- Participating in corporate activities (such as the CAA process)

We are continuing to focus upon 'valuing improvement' across the Authority and will constantly monitor our Improvement Plan for 2009/10 in order to reflect any necessary changes and to make a difference to the people of Sefton.

Councillor Richard Hands
Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Management Board

June 2009

Overview
& Scrutiny



What are the objectives of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees?

Holding the Cabinet and Cabinet Members to account

Scrutiny of planned decisions – through consideration of the Key Decision Forward Plan (KDFP) at every Committee meeting. Scrutiny of decisions that have been made, but not yet implemented, through the process of ‘call-in’, which gives Members of the Committees the opportunity to make further suggestions for improvement.

Undertaking Policy Development and Review

Scrutiny of decisions that have been implemented and which may require further investigation through more in-depth review, and consultation with Committees during the development of new policy.

Performance Management and Improvement

Monitoring performance of the Council and its partners, including the aims and objectives of the Community Strategy, the Local Area Agreement (LAA) and the Council’s Corporate Plan.

Promoting Community Leadership

Providing a forum for local concerns to be raised. Engagement with local partners and stakeholders.

Following a review in 2006, Sefton’s Overview & Scrutiny Committees have been organised in the following way:

Overview & Scrutiny Committee PERFORMANCE & CORPORATE SERVICES

The Members of this Committee consider the performance management function of the Council and issues relating to corporate resources and strategy. They consider the performance of the Council, and its partners, in delivering a Sustainable Community Strategy and monitor and review the delivery of services that impact upon community safety and general strength of communities within Sefton.

Overview & Scrutiny Committee CHILDREN’S SERVICES

The Members of this Committee consider all aspects of lifelong learning with particular relation to education and social care services for children and their families. They consider the performance of the Council, and its partners, in delivering effective services for children and young people.

Overview & Scrutiny Committee REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

The Members of this Committee consider all issues relating to regeneration, environment, transport, leisure and tourism. They consider the performance of the Council, and its partners, in delivering effective economic development and sustainability for the Borough.

Overview & Scrutiny Committee HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

The function of this Committee is slightly different to the others in that it has been empowered by the Health and Social Care Act 2001, which ensures the cooperation of NHS bodies with the local authority. The Members of this Committee consider all issues relating to health and adult social care issues with a view to improving the health of local people. They consider the performance of the Council, and its partners, in delivering effective services for achieving healthier communities.

Performance and Corporate Services



Councillor Darren Hardy
Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Performance and Corporate Services

On behalf of the Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Performance & Corporate) it gives me great pleasure to introduce the 2008/09 Annual Report to the Council.

The year has seen some major steps in the developing role of the Committee as we have expanded our focus on the Communities agenda within the Council and begun to build positive working relationships with both Merseyside Police and Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service.

Both of these key partner agencies are now meeting with the Committee on a regular basis and engaging Elected Members in shaping service provision across the Borough for the benefit of residents. In conjunction with our continuing work around the Safer, Stronger Community agenda this

relationship will help make Sefton a better, safer place to live.

In a similar vein the Committee has also had a greater focus on assessing the performance of both the Council and partner agencies in achieving our Local Area Agreement targets and in ensuring we are all meeting our duties under the new Comprehensive Area Assessment framework.

As part of that process the Committee has taken the lead in establishing proposals for a strategic and effective investment of Area Based Grant. Ensuring a clear linkage between the investment of Area Based Grant and the priority indicators agreed with Government in the Local Area Agreement will be key in ensuring a positive Comprehensive Area Assessment score is possible. Elements of that work will help lay the foundations for the new strategic budget setting process being established by the Chief Executive and Cabinet.

The Committee has also continued its work in supporting the development of the Equalities Agenda within the Authority helping to review and implement the Race Equality Scheme, the Disability Equality Scheme, the Gender Equality Scheme and, more latterly supporting the Single Equality Scheme and Comprehensive Equality Policy.

Can I thank Cllr Papworth for taking the lead on our Equality of Access to Services working group which

has proactively been helping the Council achieve Level 4 in the Equalities Standard.

Equally my thanks go to those committee members who prompted a review of the Council's use of Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) that allowed the Council to develop best practice ahead of the Government's own consultation on the future of RIPA.

The Committee has continued to play a key role in supporting the Medium Term Financial Plan, helping to keep the Authority's finances on track and building cross-Party understanding and consensus which helped the Council agree an all-Party budget again in 2009/10.

Our corporate responsibilities have also included undertaking a review of the service areas for which we have a responsibility including the Personnel Department and the Legal and Administrative Services Department.

We are also continuing to help develop the Council's Governance Review, shaping the future of the Council as a whole.

And of course a year in the life of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Performance & Corporate) would not be complete without a review of the Specialist Transport Unit. The Committee's deliberations over Charges for Service Users was an excellent example of effective, cross-Party scrutiny and produced a series of recommendations that were both supportive and critical in equal measure.

The Year Ahead

The Committee has a clear set of priorities over the coming year:

- The continued review and development of the LAA which should help build effective relationships between non-executive members and partner agencies such as Merseyside Police and Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
- The continuing review of the Medium Term Financial Plan to ensure our future financial security
- Developing and mainstreaming the Safer, Stronger Communities agenda within the Authority and completing the work started in our Perception of Crime working group
- Continuing our work in embedding the Equalities agenda in the Council

On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our work over the past year.

And finally, as Chair I would like to express my thanks to all Members and to the Overview & Scrutiny Team for their hard work, commitment and real sense of partnership which has made the Committee such an honour and a pleasure to Chair.

Councillor Darren Hardy
June 2009

Overview
& Scrutiny



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's (Children's Services) Annual Report 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 life long learning for children, young people and their families.

During the course of the year two Working Groups and one Focus Group have carried out investigations into particular areas of the Children's Services Portfolio. The Committee have also completed one review that was carried over from the previous years Work Programme along with numerous reports and pre scrutinised several key decisions

The Fostering Service:

The above Working Group set about scoping its review in the Summer 2009, after it was reported at the Committee's Work Programme session that the Fostering Service had received an "inadequate" score from Ofsted. Members were keen to investigate this service in order to look at ways it could be improved. Working Group Members gathered an immense amount of information to assist them throughout the Review. They met with Foster Carers as a group and also visited them individually in their homes, interviewed Social Workers, Officers from Children's Services, representatives from the National Fostering Agency and Sefton Advocacy. It became apparent very quickly that some radical changes were required and Officers addressed some of those issues as they emerged which were welcomed by the Working Group. The Review took ten months to complete, this illustrates the complexity of the service we were reviewing. I think all Members would agree that this was an emotionally challenging piece of work.

The review resulted in a Final Report which contained 18 recommendations, some of which had financial implications for the Council. The Committee will monitor the progress of the recommendations through regular update reports from the Strategic Director Children's Services.

Extended Schools Agenda Working Group:

The Extended Schools Agenda Working Group was one which was carried over from the previous years Work Programme. Everybody the Working Group spoke to about the Extended Schools Agenda believed it to be worthwhile and positive for children and families. Extended schools in Sefton are successful, working well and ahead of many other parts of the country, and thanks are due to Officers of the local authority, staff in schools and children's centre for making things happen.

The Working Group heard much about the range of activities on offer and encountered great enthusiasm for delivering effective Extended Schools. Members are concerned, however, about the level of sustained funding available for the programme following the end of grant funding in 2011 and have recommended that mainstream funding is available post 2011 to sustain the work being undertaken. It has also been requested that proposals for post 2011 be reported to our Committee in 2010/11.

Admissions Policy:

During the course of the year the Cabinet Member Children's Services requested the Committee to carry out a small piece of work investigating in more detail the Admissions Policy for the Hightown Area. Members of the Committee agreed to include this into the Committee's Work Programme on the basis that representations had been made at a public meeting by the Hightown Action Group. The review had to be carried out and the issue needed to be

addressed before the consultation period ended, which gave Working Group Members around 4 weeks to conduct and complete the review. The Hightown Action Group had raised concerns in relation to an inequality in the Schools Admissions Policy which directly impacted upon Hightown residents. They believed the inequality was due to the "unique" geographical base within Sefton and that there was no primary school in Hightown. The Committee set up a Working Group of four Members and began its work immediately by examining the geographical location of schools in the area.

This resulted in a final report being presented to the Committee early in December 2008 which contained 6 recommendations.

Litherland High School – One School Pathfinder Project:

The Committee set up a Focus Group to pre-scrutinise the evaluation process of the Litherland High School – One School Pathfinder Project new contract. The Focus Group looked in more detail at:-

- the reasons why stage 1 invitation attracted a single bidder;
- if it was safe to continue with a single bidder;
- the factors to be examined whilst scrutinising a single bidder;
- value for money issues; and
- Cost certainty and funding.

The pre-scrutiny process undertaken by the Focus Group illustrated that there are advantages to having a single bidder thus being Kier have been

under tighter scrutiny due to Officers meeting regularly with Kier making amendments to design, ensuring that the attention to detail remains in the forefront of designers minds and aiming to achieve zero defects on the end product. If, on the other hand the Council had two bidders at this stage, the partnership working would not have been as intense as it has been. The Focus Group were impressed with the level of commitment already shown from Kier at that stage.

The Committee, over the forth coming year, will monitor and review the recommendations of those Working Groups above.

The Committee had also scheduled an enquiry into “Corporate Parenting” in their Work Programme, this will begin towards the end of May 2009.

In addition to the Working Groups, the following topics were identified for review by members and were the subject of reports to the Committee:

- Special Educational Needs Funding;
- Special Educational Needs – Placements Outside the Borough;
- Sefton’s Young Carers;
- Dual Projects carried out between the Authority and the Fire and Police Services;
- Baby A

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.

The Year Ahead

The Committee and I look forward to the new Municipal Year, and the challenges ahead. We look forward with working as a 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 the work of 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 various Working Parties. Also a big thanks to our support officer Ruth Harrison and the rest of the Overview & Scrutiny Team.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Committee Members for their hard work throughout the year and in particular the Lead Members of the reviews.

Councillor Richard Hands
June 2009

Overview
& Scrutiny



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's (Regeneration & Environmental Services) Annual Report to the Council.

During this first year of my Chairmanship the Committee has continued to fulfil its functions in scrutinising and reviewing the wide and diverse range of services within the remit of the Regeneration and Environmental Services Portfolio.

During the course of the year three Working Groups have completed in-depth reviews (two of which had continued from the previous year and proved to be very challenging and complex pieces of work) and there has been considerable activity undertaken during the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Meetings. There has also been a great deal of commitment towards developing the relationship between the work of this Committee and our Cabinet Members and involvement of the Committee Members in the policy development process which we hope to continue and develop further in the year ahead.

Community Involvement - Licensing Act:

The above Working Group was one which was carried over from the previous years Work Programme. This review has taken some time to complete, being of a particular technical and complex nature and is currently out for consultation with all those who have participated in the review. The Committee will receive the final report and recommendations at its meeting on 11th August 2009.

I extend my thanks to the Lead Member, Councillor Cliff Mainey, for the commitment demonstrated in completing this review.

Watercourse Maintenance and Flooding:

The Watercourse Maintenance and Flooding Working Group was one which was carried over from the previous years Work Programme. This review has proved to be very timely with the publication of the Government's response to the Pitt Review in December 2008, and the Flood and Water Management Bill, which identifies the new role and

responsibilities of local authorities as the lead partner in dealing with local flood risk management. The Working Group has undertaken site visits, met with partner organisations (including the Environment Agency and United Utilities) and engaged with all the Parish Councils across the Borough. There has also been significant contribution from officers within the Council, including the Drainage Services Manager, Planning Department, Coastal Defence Officer and the Emergency Planning Team. The report is currently out for consultation with all those who participated in the review and the final report will be taken to the Committee meeting on 11th August 2009 with a number of recommendations for the Cabinet to consider.

As Lead Member for this Working Group I would like to extend my thanks to the Members of the Working Group for their dedication and knowledge which has contributed to what we consider to be a robust and timely report, and particular thanks to John Baker, Drainage Services Manager for sharing his expertise and knowledge of the subject area.

Libraries Assets Management:

This Working Group completed their review during a matter of weeks and a final report was taken to the Committee on 14th April 2009. Members visited all of the libraries across the Borough and met on a regular and intensive basis during a short period of time. The recommendations from this review have been approved by the Committee and include a Stage 2 of the review that will form part of the

Committee's work programme in 2009/10. Members of this Working Group and the Committee are particularly aware of the sensitive aspects that may arise from Stage 2 of the review and are working closely with officers to ensure that future work will be conducted in a robust manner.

I would like to extend particular thanks to the Lead Member, Councillor David Pearson, for the work carried out.

This Committee will monitor the progress of the recommendations made by these Working Groups through regular update reports during 2009/10.

In addition to the Working Groups, the Committee has received numerous reports throughout the year on a variety of issues that fall under its remit and has taken a particular interest in the impact of the global economic events upon Sefton residents (including the effect upon tourism and leisure facilities, small businesses and Council income). The Committee has sought to engage with organisations outside of the Council and there was a particularly useful dialogue between Members and the Chief Executive of Sefton Chamber of Commerce.

The Committee has been fully engaged with the Council-wide Parking Services Review, at the direct request of the Cabinet Member (Technical Services) and this has proved very valuable in the policy development process.

The Committee has also received regular updates concerning the progress of the Alternative Weekly Refuse and Recycling Service and consequently will play an important role in the process for negotiating the new contract for the services.

The Year Ahead

This Committee is looking forward to the new Municipal Year, and the challenges that it will bring. We are working to further develop our involvement with Council officers and partners in the policy development process and to strengthen our role as a 'critical friend'. Our main concern continues to be achieving improvement in the delivery of services for the benefit of the people who live and work in Sefton.

I would like to thank all Members of the Committee and officers who have contributed to the work of this Committee throughout the year. Also particular thanks to our Support Officers who are based within the Overview and Scrutiny Team.

Councillor Peter Papworth
June 2009

Overview
& Scrutiny



Health and Social Care



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

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the 2008/09 Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Health & Social Care) Annual Report to the Council.

During the year, the Committee held nine formal meetings and people from local organisations that deliver healthcare to Sefton residents attended these meetings to provide information to notify and update Members of current issues impacting on (health and social care) provision in Sefton. This has involved the Committee receiving a wide array of information, including developments within the primary care and acute trusts, results of Sefton Council's Supporting People Inspection, the Annual Review of Performance and Star Rating for Adult Social Care, the annual Public Health Report, updates from Sefton's Local Involvement Network

and proposals for changes to local NHS services such as a new Royal Liverpool University Hospital.

Members of the Committee have also gained first hand experience into how local NHS trusts are managed and issues they encounter in the day-to-day running of these services, by visiting health venues that are used by the residents of Sefton. This has included the Committee visiting the North West Ambulance Services NHS Trust new Control Centre in Preston; the Clatterbridge Oncology Centre, which offers state-of-the-art facilities for patients undergoing cancer treatment; the Alder Hey Children's Hospital and the Aintree University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. Each visit has enabled Members to become better informed and to develop relationships with key health care partners.

Throughout the year, the Committee has continued to receive regular updates and presentations from NHS Sefton (the Primary Care Trust (the PCT)). The Committee has continued to work closely with the senior management of the PCT to shape the consultation arrangements for the reconfiguration of services. The wide range of topics presented by the PCT included:

- Sefton's Health launch;
- New Horizons for health and healthcare in the North West;
- Planning for better health in Sefton;

- The improvement and equitable access to primary care;
- Better Life Better Health events;
- Lord Darzi' report on High Quality Care for All;
- The NHS Constitution;
- World Class Commissioning Assurance;
- New Sexual Health Services;
- Updates on the Children's Walk-in Centre for Southport; and
- The North West Public Health and Marketing Awards.

The Committee have also received reports and presentations from departments within Sefton Council, including the Health and Social Care Directorate, Technical Services, Housing market Renewal, Finance, Planning and Economic Regeneration and the Energy Team, which are involved in healthcare matters impacting on Sefton residents.

The Committee continues to develop strong working relationships with all our health partners and has continued to benefit from access to our own 'on call doctor' Dr Janet Atherton (Director of Sefton Public Health). Partners also include officers and members of hospital and primary care trusts, Sefton Social Care services and members of the public, all who have all made an important contribution to our work.

Sefton's Local Involvement Network (LINK), which replaced the Patient and Public Involvement network (PPI) in 2007, aims to strengthen the NHS

duty to involve and put in place a new NHS duty to report. Sefton LINKs have attended the Committee and contributed, as appropriate on their work updates and the implementation on the new LINKs.

LINKs are made up of individuals and community groups who work together to improve local services. The role of LINKs is to find out what people like and dislike about local services and work with the people who plan and run them to help make them better. The Council and LINKs are developing their relationship to work more closely and together review what work is going on locally and sharing information. This will support the Committee in working more closely with members of the public and users of health and social care in the future.

The Committee also received a presentation from the National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) to highlight their core principles, how they develop their NICE guidance and the team involved in their implementation strategy. This was very informative and gave Members an insight into this independent organization that is responsible for providing national guidance on promoting good health and prevention and treatment of ill health.

The Committee also requested presentation and updates about public access to Southport and Ormskirk Hospitals through the public transport system. This involved cross-boundary working between Southport and Ormskirk Hospital the PCT, Sefton Council, ARRIVA and Mersey Travel.

The work towards improvement is ongoing and the Committee will expect improvement updates in the coming year

During the course of the year, using dedicated Working Groups, the Health and Social Care Committee undertook a number of in-depth reviews into the improvement of supported housing needs, and the access to social care services in Sefton. Additionally for the fourth year running, Members also provided comment to the Healthcare Commission on the annual declarations of local trusts, as part of their annual inspection that provides their star ratings.

Members have continued to sit on a Joint Health and Well Being Scrutiny Committee with Knowsley and Liverpool Members examining the North Mersey Future Healthcare Programme.

In 2008/2009, the Overview and Scrutiny function has been working towards our Improvement Plan and has experienced some changes through the implementation of recommended improvements.

The Year Ahead

The Committee and I look forward to the new Municipal Year and the many challenges ahead for Scrutiny Members arising from monitoring the priorities for the refreshed Local Area Agreement, Adult Health and Social Care, and the Local Involvement Network.

The Scrutiny of Health and Social Care will again

look towards some revision and improvements to our practices. Building on reforms proposed by the Department of Health in relation to the newly formed LINKs and the duty of scrutiny to continue to expand its role to include 'Councillor Call for Action', to cover all local government matters, including social care issues.

This range of power for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee includes the right to require local service providers to provide evidence when requested, and for the Committee to recommend independent inspection, if it feels there has been a failure to adequately address local concerns. The Committee will therefore, continue to scrutinise the response of both the local authority itself and the PCT to the reports of Directors of Public Health on improving the health and social care of Sefton residents.

As a Committee, we again look forward to working in partnership with our Health and Social Care providers, to improve service provision for the people of Sefton. The challenge is for the Committee to effectively meet the ever-increasing demands of central government, the health sector and local authority. The opportunity is to be able to use its powers to help to make a real difference to the health and social care of our Sefton Community to reduce health inequalities in Sefton and to involve the Sefton Community in the process.

I would like to thank Members of the Committee for their hard work and enthusiasm shown throughout the year in scrutinising, and often

challenging, to ensure the people of Sefton have a quality health service.

In particular, I would like to pay tribute to the work done by the Lead Members of the Working Groups, Councillors Cummins, and McGuire, and to thank Caroline Elwood, the Legal Director and Scrutiny Champion, and the Overview and Scrutiny Team for their support and advice.

My special appreciation goes to Janet Borgerson our Overview and Scrutiny Officer for her enthusiasm and dedication.

Councillor Anthony Hill
June 2009

Overview
& Scrutiny



During 2008-09, the following Councillors have comprised the Overview & Scrutiny Management Board:

Overview and Scrutiny Members – Management Board'	
Hands (Chair)	Lib Dem
Brennan	Labour
Griffiths	Conservative
Hill	Lib Dem
D. Hardy	Labour
Howe	Lib Dem
Papworth	Conservative
McGuire	Lib Dem

During 2008-2009, the following Councillors have undertaken the Overview & Scrutiny role for Children's Services:

Overview & Scrutiny Committee Members – Children's Services	
Councillor Hands (Chair)	Lib Dem
Councillor Howe (Vice-Chair)	Lib Dem
Councillor Barber	Conservative
Councillor Booth	Lib Dem
Councillor Bradshaw	Labour
Councillor Cummins (Spokesperson)	Labour
Councillor Doran (Spokesperson)	Conservative
Councillor Glover	Conservative
Councillor Hough	Lib Dem
Councillor Larkin	Labour

During 2008-2009, the following Councillors have undertaken the Overview & Scrutiny role for Performance and Corporate Services:

Overview & Scrutiny Committee Members – Performance & Corporate Services	
Councillor D. Hardy (Chair)	Labour
Councillor Brennan (Vice-Chair)	Labour
Councillor Larkin	Labour
Councillor Byrne	Lib Dem
Councillor Cuthbertson	Conservative
Councillor Gibson (Spokesperson)	Lib Dem
Councillor McGinnity	Labour
Councillor Papworth	Conservative
Councillor Shaw	Lib Dem
Councillor Weavers	Lib Dem

During 2008-2009, the following Councillors have undertaken the Overview & Scrutiny role for Regeneration and Environmental Services:

Overview & Scrutiny Committee Members – Regeneration & Environmental Services	
Councillor D. Hardy (Chair)	Labour
Councillor Brennan (Vice-Chair)	Labour
Councillor Larkin	Labour
Councillor Byrne	Lib Dem
Councillor Cuthbertson	Conservative
Councillor Gibson (Spokesperson)	Lib Dem
Councillor McGinnity	Labour
Councillor Papworth	Conservative
Councillor Shaw	Lib Dem
Councillor Weavers	Lib Dem

During 2008-2009, the following Councillors have undertaken the Overview & Scrutiny role for Health and Social Care:

Overview & Scrutiny Committee Members – (Health & Social Care)

Councillor Hill (Chair)	Lib Dem
Councillor McGuire (Vice-Chair)	Lib Dem
Councillor Friel	Labour
Councillor Griffiths (Spokesperson)	Conservative
Councillor P. Hardy (Spokesperson)	Labour
Councillor Ibbs	Conservative
Councillor T. Jones	Conservative
Councillor C. Mainey	Lib Dem
Councillor S. Mainey	Lib Dem
Councillor Webster	Labour

Overview
& Scrutiny



Terms of Reference

Overview & Scrutiny Management Board

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership of the Overview & Scrutiny Management Board will comprise of the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees.

ROLE:

The role of the Board shall be to oversee the work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees. The Board shall receive officer support led by the Head of Overview & Scrutiny.

- To keep informed of current and forthcoming key strategic issues that are likely to impact on the work of the Council.
- To receive and consider requests from the Cabinet and / or the full Council for reports from Overview & Scrutiny, and to allocate them to the appropriate Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- Where matters fall within the remit of more than one Overview & Scrutiny Committee, to determine which Committee will assume responsibility for any particular issue, and to resolve any issues of dispute between Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- To meet with relevant Cabinet Members twice a year to exchange information concerning work programmes.
- To foster close working between appropriate Cabinet Members and Overview & Scrutiny Committees.
- To monitor the progress of Working Groups established by each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, and in particular to ensure that the resources of Overview & Scrutiny are appropriately applied and there is no duplication of effort.
- To monitor the progress of recommendations put forward by Overview & Scrutiny to the Cabinet and / or full Council.
- To ensure continuous improvement in the Overview & Scrutiny systems and processes so as to maximise value to the authority.
- The Board shall have power to establish time-limited Working Groups to consider a report on any priority issues or cross-cutting work. The membership of such groups need not be limited to the members of the Overview & Scrutiny Management Board.
- To provide support in the development of tailored Personal Development Plans for Members participating within the Overview & Scrutiny function.
- To be mindful of government guidance and respond to any guidance as appropriate.
- To establish a formal mechanism for engaging Area Committees, and therefore the general public, with the work of Overview & Scrutiny.
- To receive Councillor Calls for Action and determine whether they should be referred to the appropriate Overview & Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

Terms of Reference

Performance and Corporate Services

To fulfil all the functions of a Overview and Scrutiny Committee as they relate to performance management, corporate resources and strategy and in particular (but not limited to):-

1. to assist the executive in the development of the Council's annual budget and to review and scrutinise the Council's performance in relation to budgetary management;
2. to assist the Council in the development of a three year budget strategy;
3. to review and scrutinise the provision and management of the Council's resources in relation to financial, land and property, information technology and personnel and training services;
4. to review and scrutinise the provision and management of the Council's legal, democratic (including elections, land charges and registrars) health and safety and corporate policy and research services;
5. to assist the executive in the development of a Council wide property and asset strategy;
6. to promote procedures which ensure proper custodianship of Council finances, making recommendations to the executive for best financial practice across the Council;
7. review and scrutiny of community safety;
8. recommendations to Cabinet for matters to be included in the annual Performance Plan, and/or for Service Improvement reviews to be conducted;
9. reviewing and reporting to Cabinet on the targets within Local Authority's performance against the Performance Plan;
10. to assist the Cabinet in developing a performance management framework and to receive regular reports on key monitoring and performance issues;
11. responsibility for public service agreements, comprehensive performance assessment and other related issues;
12. Service Improvement reviews and consider the Review Programme for relevant linked services or activities;
13. the community strategy to promote the wellbeing of the area;
14. Social Inclusion and the Council's specific initiatives to promote it;
15. licensing and registration;
16. in particular to fulfil the scrutiny and review role in relation to the employment of the Council's Corporate Plan, Performance Plan, Community Strategy, Crime Reduction and Community Safety Strategy and any other cross-cutting corporate plans or strategies.
17. Scrutiny of the Medium Term Financial Plan.

Terms of Reference

Children's Services

To fulfil all the functions of a Overview and Scrutiny Committee as they relate to lifelong learning and in particular (but not limited to) education and social care services for children and their families.

1. all of the functions of the Council as an education authority under the Education Acts, Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 and all other relevant legislation in force from time to time;
2. all functions of the Council insofar as they relate to the provision of opportunities for education, training, youth issues and learning outside the school environment including pre-school, adult and community learning;
3. social care services for children and young persons;
4. youth offending services;
5. Best Value reviews and consideration of the Review Programme for relevant linked services or activities;
6. in particular to fulfil the Scrutiny and Review role in relation to the development of the Council's Education Development Plan and the Early Years Development Plan, Lifelong Learning Plan and all other statutory plans relating to education and social care services for children.

Terms of Reference

Regeneration and Environmental Services

To fulfil all the functions of a Overview and Scrutiny Committee as they relate to regeneration, environment, transport, leisure and tourism and in particular (but not limited to):

1. all aspects of development control and planning (except planning applications);
2. highways, traffic management and transport;
3. public protection, including trading standards and environmental health services;
4. environment and Local Agenda 21;
5. all aspects of the regeneration of communities in the area;
6. the economic development and physical regeneration of the area;
7. neighbourhood renewal and the single regeneration budget;
8. the housing market renewal initiative;
9. Service Improvement reviews and consider the Review Programme for relevant linked services or activities;

10. in particular to fulfil the scrutiny and review role in relation to the Council's Plans and Strategies comprising the Development Plan, Land Regeneration Strategy, the Food Law Enforcement Service Plan, the Local Agenda 21 Strategy, the Local Transport Plan and Annual Library Plan.
11. the development of partnerships with external organisations to meet housing need and regenerate unsatisfactory housing (in respect of planning and regeneration);
12. the improvement of private sector housing within the HMRI area.
13. grants and loans to owner occupiers, tenants landlords, and/or developers;
14. all of the Council's functions in relation to leisure, arts, sport and recreational activities to enhance the qualities of life for local people;
15. the provision and management of museums, art galleries, theatres, archives and local library activities, libraries, leisure centres, swimming pools, parks and open spaces, allotments and other like facilities;
16. tourism.

Terms of Reference

Health and Social Care

To fulfil all the functions of a Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to health and adult social care issues, including the Scrutiny of Strategic Health Authorities, Primary Care Trusts and NHS Trusts under powers contained in the Health and Social Care Act 2001 and in particular (but not limited to):-

1. Any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services within the Sefton area.
2. The response to consultation on any proposal by a local NHS body which will result in either substantial service development or a substantial variation in the existing service.
3. To make recommendations to PCTs and Strategic Health Authorities as to how the planning and delivery of primary health care services might be shaped to improve access and reduce inequalities.
4. To improve partnership working on health and health scrutiny between the Council, health services and the voluntary sector.
5. To increase awareness of health issues and the NHS way of working.
6. To scrutinise matters relating to the health of the Borough's population and contribute to the development of policy to improve health and reduce health inequalities.
7. To review and scrutinise the impact of the Authority's own services and key partnerships and others on the health of the people of Sefton.
8. To work with neighbouring Authorities, as appropriate, to review services which relate to more than one local authority.

9. To make reports and recommendations to NHS Trusts, patient representatives, the Council and its Cabinet, and to other relevant bodies and individuals.
10. To seek and to take account of the views of the people of Sefton on health and social care issues.
11. residential and day care, home support, intermediate care, respite care for adults;
12. social care services for elderly people, people with physical disabilities, people with mental health problems and learning difficulties;
13. staffing and emergency response for elderly persons in sheltered housing, hospital social workers;
14. transport service for client groups;
15. meals production and distribution service;
16. the management of the Council's housing stock until the Housing Stock Transfer.
17. the development of partnerships with external organisations to meet housing need and regenerate unsatisfactory housing (in respect of Social Care);
18. the improvement of private sector housing;
19. grants and loans to owner occupiers, tenants landlords, and/or developers;
20. homelessness and rehousing;
21. special needs housing;
22. Service Improvement reviews and to consider the Review Programme for relevant linked services or activities;
23. to fulfil the Scrutiny and Review role in relation to the development of corporate plans and strategies comprising the Housing Investment Programme and all other statutory plans relating to Social Care Services for adults.

Overview
& Scrutiny



Contact Details

Town Hall
Lord Street
Southport
PR8 1DA

Tel: 0151 934 2666

Email: scrutiny@sefton.gov.uk

Further information can also be found at:
www.sefton.gov.uk

