

Scrutiny News is a monthly publication, which aims to keep Members, officers and other interested parties informed of the work of the Council's seven Scrutiny Boards.

For those with access to the internet, further information on Scrutiny is also available at www.leeds.gov.uk/scrutiny. This site includes information about each Scrutiny Board and links to the meeting papers.

If you have any comments on the work of any of the Scrutiny Boards please get in touch with the individual contacts for the Board.

Scrutiny Board (Central & Corporate Functions) – contact **Peter Marrington** (Tel: 0113 395 1151)

This Scrutiny Board met two times in January. The first meeting dealt **with performance management issues**. The second meeting concentrated on the Board's Inquiry into **attendance management**. The Board received two nationally prominent experts in this field, Dame Carol Black and Steve Sumner. Also in attendance were Councillor Richard Brett and Chris Ingham. The fourth and final evidence gathering session for this Inquiry takes place in March with a final report ready for April.

At its February meeting the Board will discuss the **Council's Budget** and also undertake session 3 of its Inquiry into **procurement**.

Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) – contact **Kate Arscott** (Tel: 0113 247 4189)

At its January meeting the Board carried out its **quarterly performance management function**. A report on Quarter 2 performance information was received, along with an update on the **Children and Young People's Plan**, with a particular focus on Looked After Children.

The Board also received a **request for scrutiny** from the chair of governors at **Meadowfield Primary School**, in relation to the Education Leeds complaints procedure, and considered a special report on **Safeguarding Children in Leeds**. Members agreed to establish three working groups – one to consider the request for scrutiny, and two to carry out further work in relation to Safeguarding (focusing on prevention and resources).

Next month the Board will receive a number of reports, including one on the **Annual Performance Assessment of Children's Services**, and will also finalise their recommendations from the **inquiry into MAST** (the Multi Agency Support Team).

February will also be an exciting month for the **Young People's Scrutiny Forum**, with a focus group for young people on 4th February, and a delegate event for Council and Education Leeds officers on 18th February. The group hope to finish their inquiry into **'Protecting our Environment'** in March.

Scrutiny Board (Health) – contact **Steven Courtney** (Tel: 0113 247 4707)

In January the Health Scrutiny Board began with a further session of their inquiry into the new **GP-led Health Centre**. Members resolved to hold an additional meeting in the Burmantofts area of the city to discuss the issue further.

The Board also began an inquiry into **Hospital Discharges**, and received an update on **Clinical Services Reconfiguration** at the LGI – in particular the centralisation of Children's Hospital Services.

Members finished the meeting with an examination of **performance management information** from both the PCT and the Council.

Next month the Board will be continuing their examination of **Hospital Discharges** and beginning a new inquiry into the **Health and Wellbeing Needs of Local Communities**, as well as receiving a number of update reports on a range of issues.

Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods) – contact **Angela Brogden** (Tel: 0113 247 4792)

At its January meeting, the Board considered its draft Statement on the **Enforcement of Dog Fouling** in Leeds following its recent review. However, after discussing further suggested changes to the draft, the Board decided to defer the agreement of its Statement to the next meeting.

The Board considered the Leeds Strategic Plan **Performance Report for Quarter 2 2008/09** in relation to its portfolio and also received an update on progress made in implementing earlier Scrutiny Board recommendations as part of its quarterly **recommendation tracking** report.

Members also received a briefing from Leeds Area Community Safety Officers on the role of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in Leeds.

The Board's February meeting will be held at the Moor Allerton Care Centre, Cranmer Close, Leeds 17 and will be open to the public. The location details for the Centre are attached to the Board's agenda papers.

The main focus of the Board's February meeting will be to consider evidence in line with session two of its **Inquiry into Older People's Housing**.

The Board will also receive summary reports following recent working group meetings that have considered evidence as part of the Board's ongoing inquiries into **Private Rented Sector Housing, Street Cleaning, and Asylum Seeker Case Resolution**. The Board will also be considering a request for Scrutiny; a draft Service Improvement Plan for Grounds Maintenance in Leeds; and considering its draft Statement on the Enforcement of Dog Fouling in Leeds.

Scrutiny Board (City Development) – contact **Richard Mills** (Tel: 0113 247 4557)

In early January Members of the Board visited the **City Varieties** prior to refurbishment. The Board also visited the newly refurbished **Grand Theatre** and **Assembly Rooms**.

The Board on 13th January 2009 considered a request for scrutiny from the North West (Inner) Area Committee concerning phase 1 of the proposals to improve movement within the **A660 Corridor** at the junction of Clarendon Road and Woodhouse Lane.

At this meeting the **Performance Management Information** for Quarter 2 was considered in some detail on the progress being made against improvement priorities set out in the Strategic and Council Business Plans.

In February the Board will consider a report on a **Climate Change Strategy** for the authority. It will also consider the scheme design guide and vision for the **Leeds Flood Alleviation**

Scheme.

In response to the request for scrutiny of phase 1 of the **A660 Corridor** improvements, the Board will consider a draft Statement and recommendations on this issue.

It should be noted that a paper on the **Provision for Cyclists Across the City** with a view to undertaking a suitable inquiry will now go to the March Board meeting. A review of the **Loop and its Major Arterial Routes** has only recently commenced and it is anticipated that a report will not be available now until June 2009 at the earliest.

Scrutiny Board (Adult Social Care) - contact **Sandra Newbould** (Tel: 0113 247 4792)

The ASC board met on the 7th of January and agreed the areas of **Personalisation** to be scrutinised. The Board received an update on the **Dignity in Care Campaign** which they warmly welcomed and recognised the hard work and commitment undertaken by the officers involved. In addition the Board considered an update report on **Commissioning** focusing specifically on **Neighbourhood Networks**. As a result ward members will be updated on ward specific issues which may arise as a result of the forthcoming procurement of services.

The Quarter 2 **performance management report** was discussed, and feedback from the Adaptations Working Group was noted.

On the 12th of January the Adaptations working group considered the current **Value For Money** and **Procurement** arrangements in place for the purchase and delivery of adaptations for clients living in both private and council accommodation.

The Proposals Working group started looking in earnest at the performance of the Adult Social Services department against the **Independence Wellbeing and Choice** action plan on the 30th January. This process will continue until April 2009 and probably beyond.

Scrutiny Board (City & Regional Partnerships) – contact **Richard Mills** (Tel: 0113 247 4557)

The Board this month received an extremely interesting presentation from the Chair of the Leeds Initiative Narrowing the Gap Executive on the work being undertaken to “**Narrow the Gap**” through our partner organisations.

Members completed Session 3 of its **Inquiry into Skills** which concentrated on the Multi Area Agreement and the curriculum of the three merged FE Colleges.

In February the Board will consider its draft report and recommendations following the conclusion of its inquiry into the role of the **Voluntary Community and Faith Sector (VCFS)** in Council Led Community Engagement.

The anticipated report on **Marketing Leeds** will not be available now until the March Board meeting.