

Title of Report: Recommendations of the Health, Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee: Community-based support services

Meeting: Cabinet

Meeting date: 29 February 2024

Report by: The Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Classification

Open

Decision type

Non-key

Wards affected

(All Wards);

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to notify the Cabinet of the recommendations from the Health, Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, made at its meeting on 29 January 2024 and to request a response from the executive.

Recommendations

- a) That the recommendations on community-based support services, made by the Health, Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 29 January 2024 be noted; and
- b) That an executive response to the scrutiny recommendations be prepared for consideration by the Cabinet within two months.

Alternative options

None proposed; it is a statutory requirement for the Cabinet to be notified and consider reports and recommendations made by a scrutiny committee.

Key considerations

1. Scrutiny committees have statutory powers to make recommendations to the executive, and the executive (Cabinet) has a statutory duty to respond. They may also make reports and recommendations to external decision making bodies.
2. Scrutiny recommendations are addressed to the Cabinet, as the main executive decision making body of the council (or, where appropriate, an external agency).
3. Cabinet is being asked to note the scrutiny report / recommendations and that an executive response to the scrutiny recommendations be prepared for consideration by the Cabinet within two months.
4. The minutes of the meeting of the scrutiny committee provide the record of the scrutiny committee's consideration of the issue and the scrutiny recommendations made during the meeting.
5. The scrutiny committee will be notified of the executive response made in respect to the scrutiny recommendations and may track the implementation of the Cabinet decisions and any actions agreed. This enables the scrutiny committee to track whether their recommendations have been agreed, what actually was agreed (if different) and review any outcomes arising.

Community-based support services – Talk Community

6. On 23 September 2022 the Health, Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee considered an ongoing review of Talk Community, the council's community-based support services in Herefordshire, with evidence from the portfolio holder for adults, health and wellbeing, the corporate director for community wellbeing and other officers of Herefordshire Council.
7. Talk Community has been operating since 2020 with the aim of building more connected communities where everyone can thrive. The work contributes to prevention and reducing demand on statutory services by supporting individuals and communities with their health and well-being. Talk Community respond to community need and work closely with partner agencies delivering health and social care and the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprises (VCSE).
8. Demand on statutory services continues to increase and as the landscape is changing a review of Talk Community is being undertaken to understand the impact of Talk Community, to make its services and activities visible and inform the future direction of the service. The outcome will be a long term strategy for Talk Community that maximises the council's contribution to reducing demand and improving health inequalities. The review was started in November 2023 and will be completed at end of March 2024.

Scrutiny Recommendations

9. At the end of its consideration of this issue, the committee made five recommendations to the Cabinet, as set out at Appendix 1 to this report.

Procedure for Recommendations from Scrutiny Committees

10. Where scrutiny committees make reports or recommendations to the Cabinet, as soon as this has been confirmed, these will be referred to the Cabinet requesting an executive response.

This will instigate the preparation of a report to Cabinet and the necessary consideration of the response, the technical feasibility, financial implications, legal implications and equalities implications etc.

11. Where scrutiny committees make reports or recommendations to full Council (e.g. in the case of policy and budgetary decisions), the same process will be followed, with a report to Cabinet to agree its executive response, and thereafter, a report will be prepared for Council for consideration of the scrutiny report and recommendations along with the Cabinet's response.
12. Where scrutiny committees have powers under their terms of reference to make reports or recommendations to external decision makers (e.g. NHS bodies), where they do this, the relevant external decision maker shall be notified in writing, providing them with a copy of the committee's report and recommendations, and requesting a response.
13. Once the executive response has been agreed, the scrutiny committee shall receive a report to receive the response and the committee may review implementation of the executive's decisions after such a period as these may reasonably be implemented (review date).

Community Impact

14. In accordance with the adopted code of corporate governance, the council is committed to promoting a positive working culture that accepts, and encourages constructive challenge, and recognises that a culture and structure for scrutiny are key elements for accountable decision making, policy development and review. Topics selected for scrutiny should have regard to what matters to residents.

Environmental Impact

15. There are no direct environmental impacts connected with this report or the outcomes it seeks to deliver.

Equality Duty

16. There are no specific equalities impacts.
17. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –

- a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
18. The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.

Resource Implications

19. There are no resource implications arising from this report, however, fulfilling the recommendations and considerations outlined in the report may require investment from the council and wider partners.
20. Resource implications should be considered as part of the requested report to Cabinet on the Executive Response to the scrutiny recommendations.

Legal Implications

21. The council is required to deliver a scrutiny function.
22. There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

Risk management

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
There is a reputational risk to the council if the scrutiny function does not operate effectively.	The arrangements for the notification of recommendations from the scrutiny committees and agreement of an Executive Response should help mitigate this risk.

Consultees

The Chair of the Health, Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Appendices

Appendix 1: Recommendations of the Health, Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee: Community-based support services

Background papers

[Community-based support services, report to the Health, Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, 29 January 2024](#)

[Strategic review of Talk Community \(Appendix to the main report to the Health, Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee\), 29 January 2024](#)

Report Reviewers Used for appraising this report:

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