

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

This report summarises the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee since the last report to Council in February.

Since the last report the committee met on 3 March 2020. The full minutes will be available via the website shortly.

In addition to considering the reports to go before District Executive and providing 'critical friend' challenge the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- Considered a presentation from Fit for My Future team¹ regarding the current consultation on acute mental health inpatient beds for adults of working age. The committee supported option 2 to relocate Wells service to Yeovil - move St Andrews ward, Wells and create two wards using existing ward space at Rowan/Holly Court. Members did however say that they felt for those service users and families who would face the increased travel times in the Wells area. The consultation is available at <https://www.fitformyfuture.org.uk/> and is open until 12 April 2020. The Fit For My Future Team also drew members attention to another engagement activity being undertaken on Community Health & Care Services, the feedback will be used to develop a number of ways that Somerset could deliver community health and care services that will be consulted on in the future. The engagement questionnaire is available at <https://response.questback.com/isa/qbv.dll/ShowQuest?QuestID=5439572&sid=svGXw5jSKz>
- Received an update on the Council's compliance with the Equality Act and Public Sector Equality Duty since the adoption of the new Equality Policy, Equality Objectives and Equality Impact Assessment.
- Reviewed the draft Key Performance Indicators for monitoring the councils performance through 2020-21
- Supported the Income & Opportunities Manager in a policy development capacity with a view to creating a policy for the setting of fees and charges to commence in 2021/22

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee are looking for non-executive members to participate in a Task and Finish Group to review how at South Somerset we currently calculate the level of reduction in council tax for low income households (Council Tax Support) to assess if the policy needs to be revised and propose how best to do this. This is an excellent opportunity to be involved in a significant piece of policy development work, working with staff from the service delivery team for Revenues and Benefits.

If you are interested, please contact the Specialist – Scrutiny.

Crispin Raikes
Chairman of Scrutiny Committee

¹ Fit For My Future is the strategy for Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group (SCCG). It is responsible for planning, buying and providing health services to meet the needs of people in Somerset, now and in the future. SCCG have worked closely with Somerset County Council which is responsible for commissioning adult care and support services.