

meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

date 22 July 2010

agenda item number **7b**

Report of the Chair of the Overview Committee

Purpose of the Report

1. This report from the Chair of the Overview Committee further updates members on the work of scrutiny and on the implementation of recommendations made in scrutiny reviews, including updates on the work of the three standing committees.

Overview Committee

2. The scrutiny review into partnerships continues to consider how well they deliver improvements for local communities. Members of this review are seeking to work with the district and borough councils to scrutinise whether local strategic partnerships (LSPs) are delivering on local priorities in an accountable way. Every LSP has been invited to contribute to this work.
3. A small study group of scrutiny members is looking at domestic violence in the county. The group will consider the help that is available for victims, the nature and prevalence of domestic violence in Nottinghamshire and the effects on individuals and families, particularly children. Domestic violence is expected to rise during England's World Cup campaign.

Standing Committees

Communities & the Environment

4. The committee has completed its review into highway maintenance and the final report is expected to be considered by the Cabinet in the autumn.
5. A small study group is considering road safety around schools. Although Notts schools have an excellent safety record – of 269 child casualties in 2009 in the county, only 11 occurred outside a school - the group will consider the effectiveness of initiatives, particularly school travel plans, in helping to improve road safety.

Education

6. The Standing Committee is looking into the availability of school places and governor appointments. A Study Group has also been gathering information about school pupils opting to receive education across county boundaries.
7. Members have also agreed their final recommendations in the review into apprenticeships.
8. **Health & Wellbeing**
9. Plans put forward by the NHS for the future of Newark Hospital have been approved by members of the Committee.
10. Representatives from the NHS, including local GPs, outlined proposals for Newark hospital to the Committee, including plans for a new minor injuries unit.
11. The Committee will continue to monitor the changes particularly how recommendations – including improving transport links between Newark and Kings Mill hospital - are implemented as part of the proposals.
12. The Standing Committee is continuing to scrutinise major health and social care issues for Nottinghamshire. This has included introductions to the work on obesity, older people's falls and alcohol.
13. A scrutiny review is set to commence to look at the support available to young people as they make the transition from children's to adult services.

Councillor Joyce Bosnjak
Chair of the Overview Committee