

## SCRUTINY IN NUMBERS

### MEETINGS & MEMBERS

20 committee meetings

23 members

12 members sit on more than 1 group

9 co-optees

35 reports considered

14 members of the public who attended

40 comments on social media posts

### TASK & FINISH GROUPS

4 reviews

19 meetings engagements or workshop

13 presenters or witnesses

26 recommendations made

### PLUS

2 call-ins

19 scrutiny referrals

## CHAIR'S FOREWORD

Following local elections and a new Council in May, many new councillors joined the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) and the three scrutiny panels. I have been delighted to serve as the Chair for 2018/19. This report provides an overview of the work of the OSC and Panels for 2018/19. Further detail, minutes and summaries of the meetings are available online.

### BACKGROUND TO SCRUTINY IN HOUNSLOW

The scrutiny function acts on behalf of the community to improve services and decision-making inside and outside of the Council. It does this through in-depth reviews, evidence sessions on a topic or questions to service providers, Cabinet members or partners.

### MEASURING IMPACT

The scrutiny year started with some excellent training by the Centre for Public Scrutiny which emphasised the key principles of scrutiny and how we might show impact to deliver:

- Better outcomes: ensuring democratic accountability drives improvement;
- Better decisions: ensuring democratic decision making is accountable, inclusive and robust; and
- Better engagement: ensuring the public is meaningfully engaged with democratic debate about the current and future delivery of public services.

### OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY 2018/19

There have been 20 formal scrutiny meetings which have dealt with a wide range of topics. These include contributing to the Corporate Plan, health integration and other strategies as well as reviewing performance, service and activities of the Council and our partners in the police, CCG and housing associations.

The four Task and Finish groups have worked hard over a short period of time to make findings and recommendations on contract management, knife carrying, fly-tipping and supporting the VCSE sector for health prevention and early intervention.

### MEMBERSHIP AND THANKS

Twenty three members served on a scrutiny committee or panel this year. Over half of these members sit on more than one group and 65% sit on a Task and Finish Group too. Altogether, there have been 39 meetings attended by members.

I would like to thank members for their hard work and dedication. Special thanks go to my vice chair, Cllr John Chatt, the chairs of the Panels, Cllrs Komal Chaudri, John Chatt and Vickram Grewal and chair of the JHOSC, Cllr Melvin Collins, for their leadership and support. I am also very grateful to the Lead Members and officers who have attended, presented and supported scrutiny this year.

Cllr Puneet Grewal



## STRUCTURE OF SCRUTINY

### Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Health & Adult Care | Children & Young People | Housing & Environment

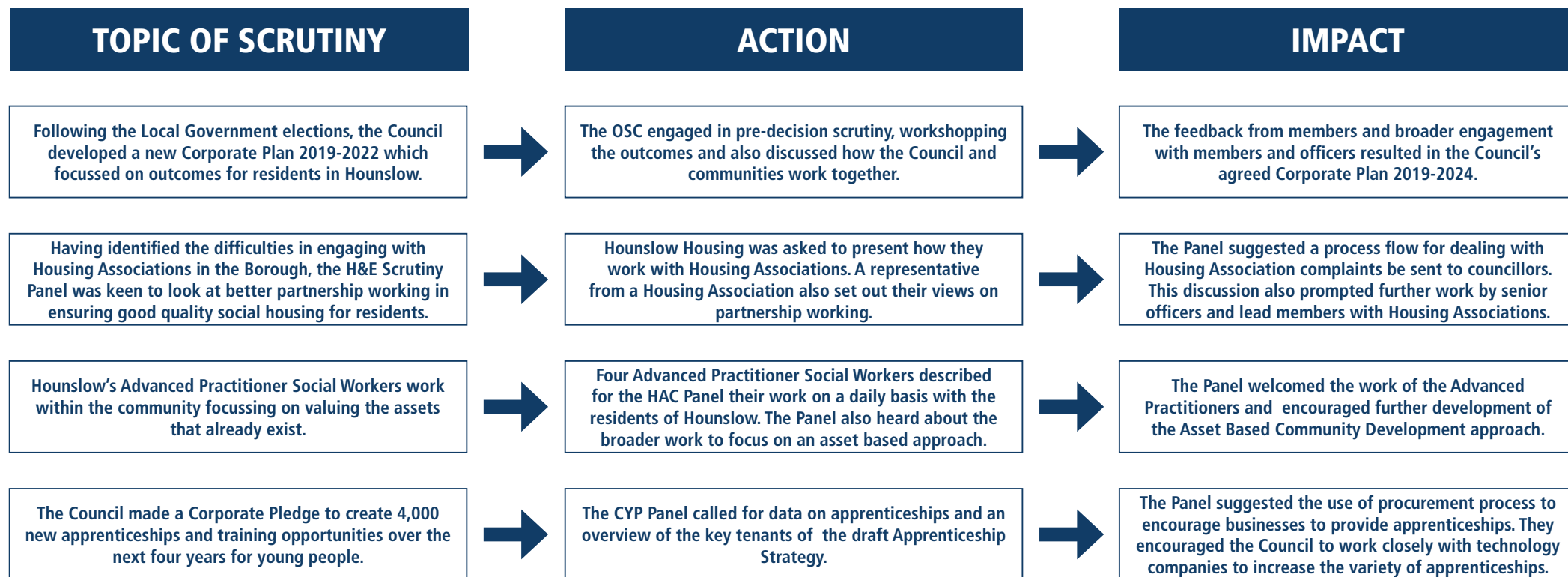
NWL Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Housing Tenant & Leaseholder Scrutiny Board

## WHAT'S NEXT FOR SCRUTINY?

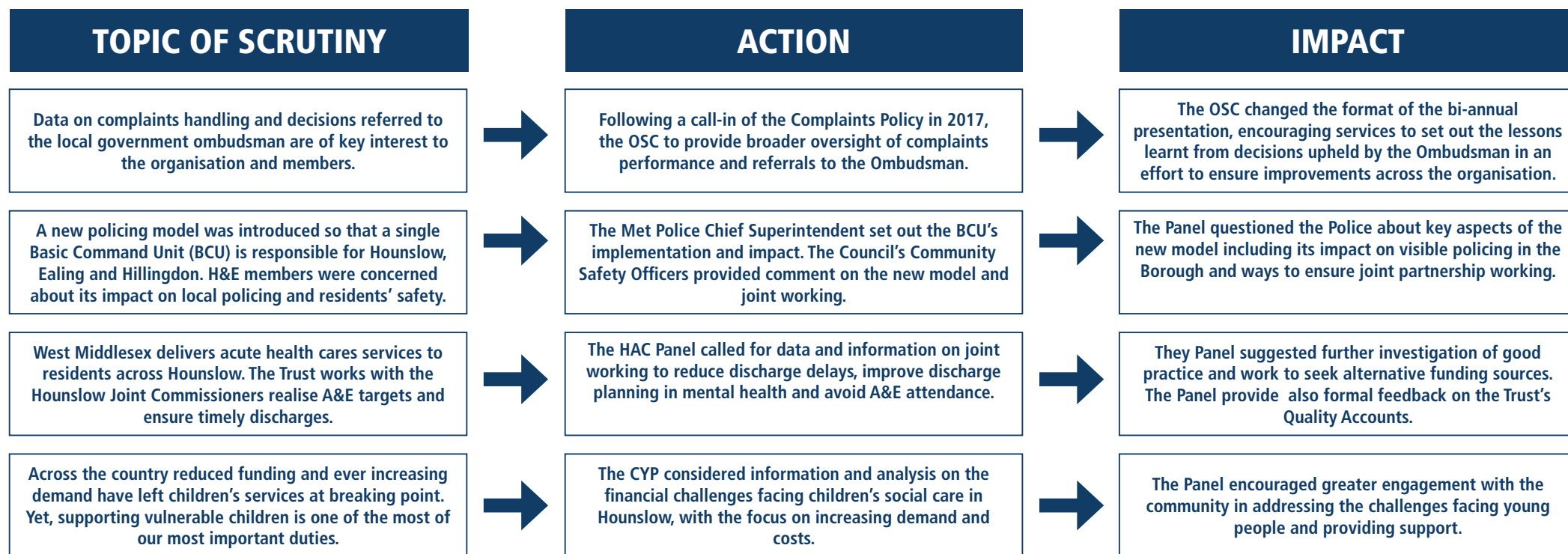
- OSC is keen to continue work to monitor the budget, complaints, contract management and performance as well as look at ways to act as 'One Council' and ensure integrated services and responses to our residents.
- The Housing and Environment (H&E) Panel plans to continue monitoring waste and recycling and consider our approach to climate change.
- The Health and Adult Care (HAC) Panel will scrutinise the Hounslow CCG's move towards more local integration of services for residents.
- The Children and Young People (CYP) Panel will continue to monitor the apprenticeship strategy look at early help for children
- The NWL JHOSC will be focussing on the work to develop an Integrated Care System in North West London.

## WHAT HAS SCRUTINY CHANGED?



## HOW DO WE MEASURE IMPACT AND EFFECTIVENESS?

While the effectiveness of scrutiny may be measured by how many of its suggestions and recommendations are implemented, it also has a broader and ongoing impact. By bringing items to a scrutiny meeting, they are subject to democratic oversight outside of traditional silos and this may act as a catalyst for change both within the Council and its partner organisations. Furthermore, ideas suggested in scrutiny might prompt further policy developments down the line. This is more difficult to show but is a valuable in itself and ensures accountability and transparency.



## IN-DEPTH REVIEWS: 2018/19 TASK AND FINISH GROUPS

### CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

The OSC Task & Finish Group (7 members) made 9 recommendations which centred on the following:

- Implement a strategic approach to contract management supported by policy and procedures;
- Implement centralised contract management software to enable better oversight of contracts;
- Create a register of contract managers, conduct a skills audit and provide training and support;
- Using resident and members' feedback to review performance of contractors; and
- Support social value outcomes.

### PREVENTING FLY-TIPPING

The H&E Task & Finish Group (7 members) made 8 recommendations centred on the following:

- Implement education and awareness raising;
- In hotspots, engage proactively with the community as partners;
- Involve councillors in preventing fly-tipping;
- Implement a cross partner system to record data on fly-tipping and help identify action areas;
- Develop an app so residents can report fly-tipping;
- Review the bulky waste removal pricing structure;
- Name and shame fly-tippers; and
- Increase the number of prosecutions.

### THE VCSE SECTOR, EARLY INTERVENTION & PREVENTION

The HAC Task & Finish Group (4 members) made 5 recommendations to Cabinet centred on the following:

- Ensure smaller VCSE organisations can access support and training;
- Develop a robust social prescribing model to facilitate Council, CCG and VCSE collaboration;
- Create a new 'Joint Prevention and Early Intervention Fund' for small scale VCSE activity;
- Develop our commissioning approach to enable smaller VCSE organisations to bid for tenders; and
- Develop a strategy for VCSE use of LBH premises.

### YOUNG PEOPLE AND KNIFE CARRYING

The CYP Task & Finish Group (4 members) made 4 recommendations centred on the following:

- Develop a Borough-wide education focused campaign on the consequences of knife carrying;
- Focus on early intervention and a public health approach to tackle knife carrying;
- Encourage and support intelligence led 'Stop and Search'; and
- Work in partnership with businesses to reduce accessibility of knives to young people.

## SCRUTINY REFERRALS

We implemented a new scrutiny referral e-form to guide residents in making a referral or, where it is not appropriate for scrutiny, to direct those residents to the appropriate channel.

This year, scrutiny received 42 referrals and 96 communications, the majority of which related to waste and recycling. Of these, 19 were referred to scrutiny for consideration and action.

## CO-OPTees

Co-optees chosen from various backgrounds add to the diversity of thought on scrutiny panels and contribute to their overall transparency. There are seven co-optees on the CYP and two on the HAC Panel.

## PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Through the scrutiny meetings presentations were received on:

- Asset based community development
- Apprenticeship strategy
- CCG joint working
- Chelsea and Westminster Quality Accounts 2018-19
- Childcare inspection reports
- Children safeguarding report
- Cleaner greener initiatives
- Continuing healthcare
- Complaints performance
- Corporate Plan
- Cost and demand
- Dementia strategy
- Developing community hubs
- Finance and budget
- Health based places of safety
- Homelessness reduction
- Housing associations
- HR and the People Strategy
- Inspection recommendations
- Integrated care systems
- Joint working to address A&E targets and timely discharge
- Library service
- Looked after children and housing
- North West London CCG health strategies
- Patient transport
- PREVENT & community cohesion
- Police BCU model
- Waste and recycling
- Winter plans
- Youth social action

## SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT



Although meetings are open to the public, not everyone is able to attend a scrutiny meeting.



We've used Facebook and Twitter to get our work out to a wider audience - our posts reached almost 40,000 people and produced nearly 700 active engagements.

Responses vary depending on the topics. Waste and recycling prompt the most responses.

**The OSC and Panel Chairs express their thanks to all Scrutiny members, recognising in particular, the valuable contribution made by members through Task and Finish Group investigations.**

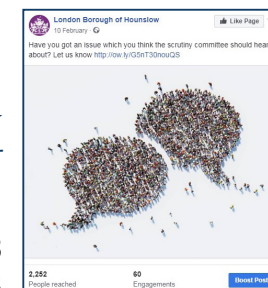
**The support of the Policy and Scrutiny Officers is also highly valued by the Scrutiny Committees.**

**For any background information on the work of scrutiny in Hounslow, OSC or individual scrutiny panels and membership, please visit**

[www.hounslow.gov.uk/scrutiny](http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/scrutiny)

*Have you got an issue which you think the scrutiny committee should hear about? Let us know.*

**Facebook: 2,252 people reached, with 8 reactions, comments or shares**



*Health & Adult Care Scrutiny Panel will discuss A&E targets and timely discharge from care. How can LBH and CCG work together to better realise the A&E 4 hour target?*

**Facebook: 1,533 people reached, with 39 reactions, comments or shares**



*The Housing & Environment Scrutiny Panel will hear an update on waste and recycling at Mondays Meeting- Tell us what you think*

**Facebook: 47 comments, 8 shares, 11 reactions, and 10 emails**



*Share with Scrutiny your experience with Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services in Hounslow.*

**Facebook: 2,022 people reached, with 27 reactions, comments or shares**

