

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
15 May 2019
SCRUTINY BOARD – STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

Members will be aware that Scrutiny Board brings together the Chairs of the five thematic overview and scrutiny committees at the Council and the Older Peoples' and Young People's Champions. It provides an opportunity for a whole council view of scrutiny activity, which avoids gaps and overlaps and helps establish a lead committee for areas of joint interest. It also provides a forum in which the key performance issues for the Council can be reviewed and items for further scrutiny identified.

The last meeting of Scrutiny Board was on 14 February 2019. At that meeting the following matters relating to the delivery of overview and scrutiny at the Council were discussed:

- The long awaited Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government statutory guidance on overview and scrutiny in local government and what the Centre for Public Scrutiny believes the focus will be.
- An update on the work of the Council's six Area Constituency Committees and how the geographically focussed work of these committees complements the thematically focussed work of the Council's five thematic overview and scrutiny committees.
- A review of Mid Cycle Briefings and the role that they play in supporting the development of the overview and scrutiny committee work programmes.
- A discussion on how to co-ordinate the scrutiny of the annual Council budget across overview and scrutiny committees, Area Constituency Committees and Member Seminars.

Members of Scrutiny Board attended the Executive Performance Monitoring meeting on 19 February 2019, to raise questions regarding key areas of the Council's performance, including determining what work was being done by Children and Young People's Services to:

- Reduce the number of exclusions from mainstream school
- Promote non-academic routes and training options for young people and young adults
- Reduce the repeat referral rate to Children's Social Care
- Manage the number of Looked After Children, ensuring that the current programme of work is targeting the right pressure points in the system
- Promote health and wellbeing for children and young people, particularly to reduce the number of children who are overweight and obese in the county.

The meeting of Scrutiny Board on 14 February 2019 was my last as Chairman. I have enjoyed working with my fellow scrutiny committee chairs and the Council's Older People's and Young People's Champions over the past 2 years as we have looked to make scrutiny more co-ordinated, targeted and outcome driven.

Chairman
County Councillor Jim Clark
23 April 2019.