

Appendix 1 Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/2019

Councillor Josh Blacker Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Taking over from a well-respected predecessor is never easy, but I would like to thank Cllr Mik Sabiers for his kind words on my election. We have in fact seen him at Overview and Scrutiny Committee almost as much as when he was Chair, given his new role as Cabinet member responsible for parking and environmental services facing call-ins.

Following the elections in May 2018, we are into a new four-year administration, but many of the challenges remain similar to those faced by the Council in the previous period. With the long-term financial settlement from central government still uncertain, the Council has even more acute pressure on its budgets, which means that difficult decisions over service provision have become substantially more so.

As such, OSC has seen a substantial increase in call-ins compared with previous years, with 11 across the 2018/19 cycle. This included a bumper August meeting with 5 call-ins at a single meeting, compared with just 4 call-ins in each of the preceding two years. Many of these have included representations from the public, demonstrating that civic engagement is alive and well in Ealing. With a number of key consultations begun towards the end of the civic year, it is likely this increased activity will continue as final cabinet decisions are made.

The 2018 elections brought with them a significant change in membership of OSC, with five newly elected councillors joining us for the year. I'd like to thank those members for getting up to speed with some of the long-running issues we have examined, and particularly for their fresh eyes and input over the year. It is difficult enough beginning as a new councillor, let alone getting to grips with scrutinising cabinet decisions and the Council's budget process.

Four scrutiny review panels have examined the work of the Council and issues affecting Ealing residents, from a continuation of the review of the Council's major transformation programme, Future Ealing, to knife crime and youth violence. Both of these issues warrant further scrutiny, and OSC agreed a more focused panel looking

at one of the Future Ealing themes and to take on scrutiny of the Council's knife crime and youth violence strategy itself, to monitor implementation.

All four chairs should be thanked for the additional hours put in behind the scenes scoping out their panels' work programmes, coordinating visits and ensuring backbenchers' views are put forward to the Executive through the scrutiny process.

The work of the standing Health and Adult Social Services scrutiny panel merits particular mention this year. Without the detailed work under Cllr Crawford and previous chairs scrutinising NHS plans over several years to cut services and close local hospitals, alongside cross-party and community campaigns, the victory against 'Shaping a Healthier Future' would have been more difficult.

Finally, this year also saw the retirement of Keith Fraser as Head of Democratic Services. Keith has been an excellent supporter of effective scrutiny, and his support and guidance in helping us hold the executive to account will be missed. We wish him well after his years of service to the people of Ealing.

Councillor Josh Blacker
Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Daniel Crawford
Chair of the Health and Adult Social Services Standing Scrutiny Panel



It has been an immense privilege to chair Ealing Council's Health and Adults Social Services Standing Scrutiny Panel during the 2018/2019 municipal year. I have become accustomed to the panel covering a wide range of topics, but I feel that this was one of the most important years for health scrutiny in recent times.

The Panel has always kept a close eye on the progress of Shaping a Healthier Future and stood up for local residents and patients when the programme threatened services at Ealing and Charing Cross hospitals. It was reassuring to hear earlier this year that the government had scrapped the programme as we have always argued that these plans were not in the best interests of Ealing's residents. The Panel has continually sought to maintain cordial relationships with our health partners and look forward to working with the relevant NHS bodies as they move towards making crucial decisions about our local health services in the future.

To that end, the Panel has heard evidence over the past year from Ealing CCG representatives and others on the single contract, the Ealing Primary Care Standard and the mental health transformation programme. We welcome the enthusiasm of health partners in bringing reports to the Panel for effective and thorough scrutiny and anticipate monitoring developments in these areas over the course of the coming year. The emphasis on mental health is particularly welcome as it has been a topic that has been raised by councillors and constituents for some time.

I am pleased to have been able to remain closely involved with the work of the joint health overview and scrutiny committee at a regional level, looking at decisions that are taken across North West London. I have found these meetings valuable to flag up concerns that span our Borough boundaries and discuss mutual topics of interests with my counterparts from other London boroughs. The JHOSC will continue into a new year of work and, with another set of proposed reorganisations on the horizon, it will have plenty of business to attend to.

I am grateful to all my colleagues on the Panel for their support, guidance and thorough questioning. The Panel has resolved to look more closely at adult social care over the coming year, whilst continuing to examine the key health topics that have been constants on our agenda. I wish to pay a particular tribute to the work of our three co-

opted independent members, Alan Cook, Anna Whitty and John McNeill, for the expertise and focus that they have brought to the Panel.

I would especially like to thank my Vice Chair, Councillor Joy Morrissey, who has been a real source of support and insight throughout the year. The Council's scrutiny function is vitally important, especially in areas as complex as health and social services, but I would have been lost on many occasions without the assistance, patience and sage advice of Anna-Marie Rattray and Lee Teasdale, who also do invaluable work outside of the meetings to ensure that the Panel is able to cover as much ground as it does.

Scrutiny of an area this important as only as successful as the will of our participants so I would also like to thank all the officers and individuals who have been willing to appear before the Panel this year to discuss various elements of their work. I hope that the report succeeds in underlining our continued commitment to robust scrutiny and delivering results for the people of Ealing.

Councillor Dan Crawford
Chair of the Health and Adults Social Services Standing Scrutiny Panel

Cllr Sarah Rooney
Chair of the Housing and Planning Scrutiny Review Panel



Over the past year the Housing and Planning Scrutiny Panel has been successful in assessing the work of Ealing Council in preventing homelessness, supporting residents to access affordable, well managed social and market rented homes, increasing the supply of affordable homes and improving the quality of housing.

Though it is easy to dwell on our successes as a council, we are met with the reality that we must do more. The housing crisis has had a harmful effect on the people of Ealing with affordability of both buying and renting remaining a challenge for many people living in the Borough. In the private rented sector, the council is rightly making the case at a national level for greater powers to combat the scourge of homes being unfit for habitation. Landlord licensing which the council has introduced is one way to do that.

The Council is right to be proud of our commitment to building council homes in our Borough. However, despite Ealing having a strong estate regeneration programme, the demand for council homes is high with stock turnover extremely low. Social housing is another key area of concern. Nationally since 2010, the number of new social rented homes has fallen by over 80%, so we are now building 30,000 fewer socially rented homes each year. Our recommendations highlight the need for continued investment in both council and social housing.

More and more people, particularly younger people are struggling to get on the housing ladder. Across the country, there are now 900,000 fewer homeowners under 45 than there were at the start of the decade. Homes to buy in Ealing are becoming even more expensive, which is having an impact on recruitment in the borough including for the Council itself.

A large area of focus for the Panel this year was homelessness. Across the country, homelessness is up by 50% whilst rough sleeping has doubled. In Ealing, panel members learnt that there were around 1,500 homelessness applications in Ealing last year with 750 households accepted as homeless. The main cause was the loss of a private rented sector tenancy in 64.4% of cases. The site visit to an Ealing Winter Night Shelter further highlighted the need to tackle the housing crisis in the Borough and the rise of homelessness and rough sleeping.

Through discussions with Officers and external speakers, the panel has put together 26 recommendations for a Council work programme for tackling the housing crisis in the Borough.

I would like to thank the panel members and in particular Vice Chair Councillor Joy Morrissey, for their hard work and support throughout the year. I would also like to thank Council Officers, the Scrutiny team and external experts for their insightful contributions and assistance.

Councillor Sarah Rooney
Chair of the Housing and Planning Scrutiny Review Panel

Councillor Aysha Raza
Chair of the Knife Crime and Youth Engagement Scrutiny Review Panel



In my day job we use knives, scalpels to learn and save lives. In my spare time I use axes and wood carving knives to produce useful objects from felled local trees. Never once have I contemplated hurting another person with these, a few times I have nicked myself, which apart from being a bit annoying and embarrassing didn't have any lasting implications. As we find ourselves in the middle of an epidemic we must resist simply just remove all the spinning wheels from the kingdom to keep 'Sleeping Beauty' safe. Talking to parents and friends of victims of knife crime at the #OperationShutdown rally recently all agreed that young people don't get enough support outside of the struggling education system. We must support our young people in Ealing to stay safe and help each other stay safe too. The Panel's work this year has tried to investigate all the agencies that deal with this complex issue of increased knife crime in our borough but were merely able to scratch the surface over our five meetings. It has been disappointing that our work has not been extended to reach more detailed findings and concrete recommendations.

This work was carried out against a backdrop of major police restructuring and cuts, as well as similar issues at the council, education system and magistrates, prison and health services. The formulation of a borough strategy and the London knife crime strategy is very much still a work in progress evolving with increasing input and data evidence. It is important to see how we compare to our neighbouring boroughs, regionally and nationally.

It was very heartening to know that there is a lot of positive work going on in our borough through youth engagement which is to be highly commended given the financial constraints all public services are currently battling. In many cases volunteers are providing much needed support and training the council would like to be providing. We must be better at supporting volunteer groups to become successful bid and grant writers as securing funding is key to enabling them to continue their good work. London's knife crime strategy focuses on learning from Glasgow's public health approach which relies on a robust multi-agency response. However, with resources scarce my worry is that this response may be doomed to failure without adequate resources to support the extra activities needed to facilitate this approach. We had hoped to discuss with colleagues in Glasgow the pitfalls to avoid. Youth centred policy is possibly the only guarantee of improvement in all

spheres to make up in some small way for our young people paying the ultimate price of austerity with their lives.

I would like to thank council officers for their enthusiastic contribution to our work particularly Ian Jenkins (Integrated Youth Service), Charles Barnard (Integrated Early Years), Jess Murray and Paul Murphy from Community Safety Team. Heartfelt thanks to Harjeet Bains for her superhuman work supporting our Panel as well as others simultaneously and Janine Jenkinson. I am grateful to Elly Heaton-Virgo for her input as Co-optee from the Young Ealing Foundation, and the many young people of our borough who shared their thoughts and experiences with our Panel so generously. Finally, thanks to my Vice Chair (Cllr Seema Kumar) and Panel members who all took part in many school training days and site visits and made valuable contributions. Cllr Yvonne Johnson (Portfolio holder for young people) took great interest in our work and attended meetings and visits with us where possible, as did Richard Kornicki (Deputy Lieutenant for Ealing), this was very much appreciated. We hope that this work will be monitored by OSC to ensure that we continue to build on this report's foundations and improve the outcomes of all our young people in Ealing.

Councillor Aysha Raza
Chair of the Knife Crime and Youth Engagement Scrutiny Review Panel

Councillor Anthony Young
Chair of the Air Quality Scrutiny Review Panel



Air Quality is not just a local problem, it is a regional, a national and an international problem.

I am old enough to remember smog in Ealing, when the air was so polluted that it wasn't possible to see across to the other side of the street. Air pollution is less visible nowadays, but is still having serious deleterious effects on our, and in particular, our children's health.

Air pollution comes from many sources, improving air quality will require multiple measures to be introduced, and will take time to accomplish. Public awareness of the issue is increasing, and there is general support for the measures it will take to address the issue. All layers of Government must be involved, and Ealing as a Borough, should play its part.

As well as expecting residents to reduce their activities that cause air pollution, Ealing should show the way forward by reducing its use of diesel fuels.

I would like to thank the Councillors who have served on the Panel for all their hard work and especially my Vice-Chair, Cllr Kate Crawford, for her help and support.

Councillor Anthony Young
Chair of the Air Quality Scrutiny Review Panel

**Councillor Deirdre Costigan
Chair of the Future Ealing Scrutiny Review Panel**



XXXXXX

**Councillor Deirdre Costigan
Chair of the Future Ealing Scrutiny Review Panel**

Links to the Panels' work in 2018/2019

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

http://ealing.cmis.uk.com/ealing/Committees/tabid/62/ctl/ViewCMIS_CommitteeDetails/mid/381/id/34/Default.aspx

Health & Adult Social Services Standing Panel

http://ealing.cmis.uk.com/ealing/Committees/tabid/62/ctl/ViewCMIS_CommitteeDetails/mid/381/id/35/Default.aspx

Links to each Panel's final report.

The Scrutiny Review Reports for Panels 1, 2 and 3 can be found on the agenda on this page

<https://ealing.cmis.uk.com/ealing/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/6310/Committee/34/Default.aspx>

The Scrutiny Review Report for Panel 4 can be found on the agenda on this page.

<https://ealing.cmis.uk.com/ealing/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/6311/Committee/34/Default.aspx>

Appendix 2 Scrutiny Work PROGRAMME - 2019/2020

Standing Scrutiny Committees

Panel	BRIEF	Scrutiny Leads	Proposed CB & EDG leads	Meetings	Link to Priorities
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall responsibility for managing the scrutiny function including selection of topics and commissioning review panels; • Scrutiny of core issues including performance and budget strategy; • Exercising the right to call-in and dealing with all call-ins; • Dealing with petitions as directed under the constitution • Refer the recommendations arising from review panels to cabinet or council as appropriate; • Consider requests for Councillor Calls for Action • Agree the scrutiny annual report and work programme. • To review and scrutinise matters relating to the Community Safety Partnership in the authority's area and to make reports and recommendations on such matters to the relevant members of the Partnership in accordance with the powers given to the local authority under the Criminal Justice Act 	Head of Democratic Services Cllrs Blacker & A Stafford	PAUL NAJSAREK Helen Harris	12	All

Panel	BRIEF	Scrutiny Leads	Proposed CB & EDG leads	Meetings	Link to Priorities
	2006 and as amended by section 126 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.				
Health and Adult Social Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review and scrutinise the planning, management, provision and performance of adult social services as provided by (a) the Council (b) the Council in partnership with other bodies and (c) other bodies; • To review and scrutinise matters relating to the health service in the authority's area and to make reports and recommendations on such matters to the relevant NHS bodies in accordance with the powers given to the local authority by the Health and Social Care Act 2001; • To consider and respond to NHS consultations on proposed substantial developments/variations in health services that would affect the people of Ealing. 	Anna-Marie Rattray Cllrs D. Crawford & Joy Morrissey	Judith Finlay Kerry Stevens	8	A Healthy Great Place

Scrutiny Review Panels

Panel	Review topics	Scrutiny leads	Proposed CB and EDG leads	Number of meetings	Link to Corporate Plan
Scrutiny Review Panel 1 Education	<p>This Panel will review the provision, quality and funding of education in the borough.</p> <p>Members will consider areas such as schools funding, schools planning, the Ealing Learning Partnership, Special Education Needs Provision, and Equality and Inclusion.</p>	<p>Anna-Marie Rattray</p> <p>Cllrs Costigan and Sumner</p>	<p>Judith Finlay</p> <p>Julie Lewis Gary Redhead</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5</p>	<p>A Healthy Great Place</p> <p>Opportunities and Living Incomes</p>
Scrutiny Review Panel 2 Active Citizenship	<p>The Panel will consider the Council's active citizenship programme including the Neighbourhoods Outcome Review, residents' engagement, the work of street patrolling groups, plogging activity and Ealing Parks Foundation.</p>	<p>Harjeet Bains</p> <p>Cllrs Dhadwal and Kumar</p>	<p>Tony Clements</p> <p>Gillian Marston</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">All</p>

Panel	Review topics	Scrutiny leads	Proposed CB and EDG leads	Number of meetings	Link to Corporate Plan
Scrutiny Review Panel 3 Local Effects of National Issues	The Panel will review the local effects of national issues in the borough including the financial pressures upon the Council and the impact, changes to the universal credit, potential changes to the Housing Act e.g. tenancy law, and the new Environment Bill.	Harjeet Bains Cllrs Driscoll and Busuttil	Corporate Board (cross-cutting) Ross Brown Alison Reynolds Mark Wiltshire Gillian Marston	5	All
Scrutiny Review Panel 4 Leisure	This Panel will consider the current leisure provision in the borough including a detailed review of the sports facilities, the arts and the arrangements for the parks.	Harjeet Bains Cllrs A Stafford and Woodroffe	Tony Clements Gillian Marston	5	All

Links to the Panels' work in 2019/2020

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

http://ealing.cmis.uk.com/ealing/Committees/tabid/62/ctl/ViewCMIS_CommitteeDetails/mid/381/id/34/Default.aspx

Health & Adult Social Services Standing Panel

http://ealing.cmis.uk.com/ealing/Committees/tabid/62/ctl/ViewCMIS_CommitteeDetails/mid/381/id/35/Default.aspx

Scrutiny Review Panel 1- Education

https://ealing.cmis.uk.com/ealing/Committees/tabid/62/ctl/ViewCMIS_CommitteeDetails/mid/381/id/317/Default.aspx

Scrutiny Review Panel 2 – Active Citizenship

https://ealing.cmis.uk.com/ealing/Committees/tabid/62/ctl/ViewCMIS_CommitteeDetails/mid/381/id/318/Default.aspx

Scrutiny Review Panel 3 – Local Effects of National Issues

https://ealing.cmis.uk.com/ealing/Committees/tabid/62/ctl/ViewCMIS_CommitteeDetails/mid/381/id/319/Default.aspx

Scrutiny Review Panel 4 – Leisure

https://ealing.cmis.uk.com/ealing/Committees/tabid/62/ctl/ViewCMIS_CommitteeDetails/mid/381/id/320/Default.aspx