

North East Scrutiny Officers' Network

Wednesday 29 November 2023

10am - MS Teams

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for Absence (see attached)
3. Minutes from Meeting – 7 September 2023
4. Meeting Schedule / Frequency of meetings / Potential Agenda Items for each meeting
5. North East Regional Member/Officer (MS Teams) – Agreement of Agenda for the next Member / Officer Network meeting:
 - i) Proposed Agenda
6. Best Practice:
 - i) Local Authorities – verbal updates
7. Feedback from Joint Health Scrutiny Committee (Tees Valley) – Gary Woods
8. Member Engagement in Overview and Scrutiny (inside and outside scrutiny committee membership) – Judy Trainer
9. CfGS Training Programme – dates and topics confirmed
10. Any Other Business
11. Date of Next Meeting – date and format TBC during the meeting.

Scrutiny Officer Network

Wednesday 29 November 2023, 10am - Teams Meeting

Attending

CfGS	Megan Ingle
Darlington Council	Michael Conway
Durham CC	Rachel Parker Stephen Gwilym
Gateshead Council	Tim Briton
Hartlepool Council	Joan Stevens Gemma Jones
Newcastle City Council	Kate McLoughlin
Northumberland CC	Chris Angus Sean Nicholson
South Tyneside Council	Jonathan Lunness Emma Purvis
Stockton Council	Judy Trainer Gary Woods Rebecca Saunders-Thompson Jonathan Nertney
Sunderland City Council	Nigel Cummings Gillian Robinson
Tees Valley CA	Nicola Dean

Tentative

Redcar & Cleveland Council	Sarah Connolly
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Declined

CfGS	Ed Hammond
Darlington Council	Hannah Miller
North of Tyne CA	Liz Kerr
Northumberland Council	Lynsey Denyer Simon Neilson

Notes

NEREO Regional Scrutiny Officers' Network

7 September 2023

Attendance:

Hartlepool Council	Joan Stevens and Gemma Jones
Redcar & Cleveland Council	Alison Pearson
Stockton Council	Gary Woods
Darlington Council	Hannah Miller
Newcastle City Council	Jessica Hall
South Tyneside Council	Jonathan Lunness
	Kate Lowes
Newcastle City Council	Kate McLoughlin
Sunderland City Council	Nigel Cummings
Stockton Council	Rachel Harrison
Durham CC	Rachel Parker
Stockton Council	Rebecca Saunders-Thompson
North of Tyne CA	Michael Robson
Redcar & Cleveland Council	Sarah Connolly
Northumberland CC	Sean Nicholson
Gateshead Council	Tim Briton

CfGS

Megan Ingle
Helen Mitchell

Apologies:

Durham CC	Stephen Gwilym
Middlesbrough Council	Bernie Carr
North Tyneside Council	Yvonne Harrison
Northumberland Council	Lynsey Denyer and Simon Neilson

1. Meeting Schedule / Frequency of Meetings / Potential Agenda Items for each meeting

It was proposed that the timings of future meetings should be varied to allow maximum participation. cA request was made for any suggestions of future items.

Action – A schedule of future meetings will be shared to identify any clashes.

2. North East Regional Member/Officer (MS Teams) – Agreement of Agenda for the next Member / Officer Network meeting:

The proposed agenda was agreed.

3. Best Practice:

i) Local Authorities

Gary Woods shared Stockton BC process of producing end of term reports to summarise their scrutiny function. An infographic is produced to summarise the in-depth scrutiny reviews.

Action – It was requested that this infographic and a link to the report be shared with the officer network.

ii) CfGS

It was highlighted that some local authorities across the country are contravening the requirements of the Local Government Act 2000 by failing to have in place a dedicated Statutory Scrutiny Officer.

A discussion took place regarding the removal of the power to refer to the Secretary of State by the **Health and Care Act 2022**. The intention remains to remove it but it is not clear when or what will replace it.

- A request was made for any colleagues handling any service variations at the moment to get in touch with Helen Mitchell.

Round table events are taking place in October, the topics are finance and a closed session for governance professionals.

- CfGS requested that any case studies, blogs or examples of best practice be sent to Megan Ingle to be shared.

4. Training Programme – CfGS training schedule

The CfGS Training Officer identified a range of courses and offered the network 4 bite size training sessions for the coming year.

Action – Each authority to identify their preferred 4 topics in priority order and forward this by 14 September to Gemma Jones.

5. AOB

A request was made by Stockton BC for any scrutiny investigations regarding vaping.