

Notes
North East Scrutiny Officers Network
Wednesday 29 November 2023

Attendance:

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Durham CC | Stephen Gwilym |
| Gateshead Council | Tim Briton |
| Hartlepool Council | Gemma Jones |
| Middlesbrough Council | Susan Lightwing |
| Newcastle City Council | Jessica Hall |
| Newcastle City Council | Kate McLoughlin |
| North of Tyne CA | Michael Robson |
| Northumberland CC | Sean Nicholson |
| Northumberland CC | Chris Angus |
| South Tyneside Council | Jonathan Lunness |
| South Tyneside Council | Emma Purvis |
| Stockton Council | Rachel Harrison |
| Stockton Council | Rebecca Saunders-Thompson |
| Stockton Council | Gary Woods |
| Stockton Council | Judy Trainer |
| Sunderland City Council | Nigel Cummings |

CfGS:

Megan Ingle

Apologies:

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| CfGS | Ed Hammond |
| Darlington Council | Hannah Miller |
| Durham CC | Rachel Parker |
| North East CA | Gavin Armstrong |
| North of Tyne CA | Liz Kerr |
| Northumberland Council | Lynsey Denyer |
| Northumberland Council | Simon Neilson |

4. Meeting Schedule / Frequency of meetings / Potential Agenda Items for each meeting

It was agreed that the timings of future meetings should remain 10am and be held every quarter.

Some concerns were raised regarding health scrutiny under the new ICS arrangements.

Action – Health Scrutiny update to be added as a standing item.

Action – December 2024 officer meeting to take place in person.

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

It was agreed that, in preparation for the officer/network meeting in March 2024, a list of investigations and work undertaken by each authority be collated and circulated. A request was made for further agenda items.

The proposed agenda for officer/member meeting December 2023 was agreed.

Action – Officers from Hartlepool Council will collate this on behalf of the network.

6. Best Practice:

i) Local Authorities

Judy Trainer shared a Stockton Council investigation into the educational attainment of children and young people. They are taking a new approach and conducting an appreciative enquiry review, recommendations will be driven by stakeholders.

Action – If anyone has experience in conducting investigations in this way please get in touch with Stockton Council.

Kate Mcloughlin shared Newcastle City Council investigation into supporting young people into employment and their approach of working with an academic advisor.

Action – that the outcome of this be shared in the Officer/Member network meeting and be added to the agenda for March 2024.

ii) CfGS

No items.

7. Feedback from Joint Health Scrutiny Committee (Tees Valley) – Gary Woods

ICB representatives are looking at what items are being considered at each meeting to prevent duplication amongst the five authorities in the Tees Valley. Concerns have been raised that not everyone is getting all of the items. Gary Woods to carry out a mapping exercise to determine this. An overview was given in terms of the recent collaboration work between North Tees Foundation Trust and South Tees Foundation Trust.

Action – Gary Woods to feedback the results of the mapping exercise at the next meeting.

Action – Gary Woods to co-ordinate a meeting between Health Scrutiny Officers to look at the issue of duplication.

8. Member Engagement

A discussion was had involving ways to increase Member engagement and activity. The following was proposed:

- Holding regular informal Policy Chairs meetings
- Publishing attendance lists
- Offering free training to Members
- Regular contact with Members to confirm attendance at upcoming meetings
- Holding hybrid meetings
- Discussing member attendance with Group Leaders
- Themed committee meetings
- Site visits

9. Training Programme – CfGS training schedule

The CfGS Training programme has now been finalised and circulated.

Action – Megan Ingle to look at ways to be able to provide attendance records to each authority.

10. AOB

It was agreed that North Tyneside CA would discuss the Scrutiny Protocol for Combined Authorities at the Member/Officer network meeting in March.

Action – Agenda item to be added to the March meeting.