

South Lanarkshire Council

Local Scrutiny Plan 2017/18



South Lanarkshire Council

Local Scrutiny Plan 2017/18

Introduction

1. This local scrutiny plan (LSP) sets out the planned scrutiny activity in South Lanarkshire Council during 2017/18. The plan is based on a shared risk assessment undertaken by a local area network (LAN), comprising representatives of all the scrutiny bodies who engage with the council. The shared risk assessment process draws on a range of evidence with the aim of determining any scrutiny activity required and focusing this in the most proportionate way.
2. This plan does not identify or address all risks in the council. It covers only those risk areas that the LAN has identified as requiring scrutiny, or where scrutiny is planned as part of a national programme. Planned scrutiny activity across all councils in Scotland informs the National Scrutiny Plan for 2017/18, which is available on the Audit Scotland website.

Scrutiny risks

3. The LAN's risk assessment of the council did not identify any areas where specific scrutiny was required, other than that which is nationally directed or part of a planned programme of work. This is a positive position for the council and is consistent with the LAN view last year.
4. Whilst no risk based scrutiny is required the LAN has identified some areas where monitoring will be part of the ongoing national scrutiny work. These are detailed below, together with updates on areas that were identified in the 2016/17 LSP for follow up.

Financial sustainability

5. The LAN continues to monitor the council's financial position and the challenges that reductions in future spending will create for services and their users. The council has a sound approach to financial management, which includes longer-term financial planning. The council face a funding gap of £18.8 million in the coming year and have developed a savings package to address this shortfall.
6. To deal with these ongoing budget pressures, and the long-term financial challenges faced by the local government sector, the council have recognised that they will require to make changes to the way services are delivered. To support this, the council has an established programme of service reviews, examining service operation and assessing whether improvements and efficiencies can be made. Elected members and senior

management are both involved in this process, with the council's Corporate Management Team monitoring progress on reviews regularly.

7. The council has recently restructured the finance section as part of the introduction of an integrated finance model. This is to create the capability to support the transformation of the council by placing a greater emphasis on change management, and recognising the need for sound financial support in managing that change. The new structure is being implemented on a phased basis. It is anticipated that the new structure will also generate initial cost savings of £0.750 million per year in 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20.
8. The LAN will continue to monitor the council's financial position and comments will be included in Audit Scotland's 2016/17 annual audit report.

Health and social care integration

9. In April 2016, the health and social care partnership between South Lanarkshire Council and NHS Lanarkshire became operational. South Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board (SLIJB) now has delegated responsibility for delivering all adult health and social care and children's health services within South Lanarkshire.
10. In October 2016 South Lanarkshire Council appointed a new Executive Director of Social Work who has also been appointed as the Chief Officer for the South Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board (IJB). A Chief Finance Officer has also been appointed to a joint role overseeing the finances of SLIJB and North Lanarkshire IJB.
11. In December 2016 the IJB approved an Integrated Structure across the Health and Social Care Partnership. The new model is an integrated locality model of delivery based on four localities (Hamilton, East Kilbride, Rutherglen and Cambuslang, and Clydesdale). The board considers the locality model as being vital to the delivery of effective health and social care to residents.
12. The integration of health and social care services is a significant transition for the council and its partners and the LAN will continue to monitor the impact on service delivery and users.

Services for older people

13. During 2016 the Care Inspectorate and Health Improvement Scotland carried out a joint inspection of services for older people in South Lanarkshire. The findings from this review were published in June 2016 and highlighted areas of good performance but also made recommendations where improvements could be made. Across nine quality indicators, three were found by inspectors to be 'good' and six 'adequate' and actions have been identified to address those areas where improvement is required. Bi-monthly meetings are being held with the partnership group to monitor progress against these areas and assign a Red/Amber/Green status to each point in the Action Plan. These meetings are in addition to the regular liaison meetings held with the lead inspector to monitor progress and report to the IJB and Chief Officers Group.

Alcohol and Drug Partnerships

14. The Care Inspectorate led a project on the validated self evaluation of Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADPs). All ADPs have received individual feedback to support continuous improvement and a national report will be published in May 2017. The Lanarkshire ADP feedback identified several strengths and areas for improvement. The Care Inspectorate's Link Inspector will monitor the council's response to their findings as part of their ongoing dialogue with the council.

Housing and Homelessness

15. To assess the risk to social landlord services the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) has reviewed and compared the 2015/16 performance of all Scottish social landlords to identify the weakest performing landlords. It found that South Lanarkshire is in the bottom quartile for all social landlords in relation to: factored owners satisfied with the factoring service; Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS); time to complete non-emergency repairs and some aspects of its homelessness service, including the overall length of stay in temporary accommodation and lets to homeless households.
16. SHR will monitor the council's progress in addressing the housing and homelessness service weaknesses identified in this plan. It will review the council's half yearly performance management reports and meet council officials as necessary.
17. SHR will publish the findings of its thematic inquiry work into gas safety and repairs completed during 2016/17. It may carry out further thematic inquiries during 2017/18. SHR will also review the Scottish Social Housing Charter data submitted by landlords and carry out data accuracy visits during the second quarter of 2017/18. Where councils are to be involved in a thematic inquiry or a data accuracy visit, the SHR will confirm this directly with the council and the LAN lead.

Careers Information, Advice and Guidance (CIAG) review

18. Education Scotland redeveloped its model of reviews of CIAG services delivered by Skills Development Scotland (SDS). Five reviews have been planned for 2016/17: Highland, Renfrewshire, South Lanarkshire, Midlothian and Dundee. These reviews focus on authorities which have 'early adopter' schools which received an enhanced service offer from SDS as part of the pilot programme in 2015/16. The enhanced service in these schools included support for transition of pupils from primary to secondary, one-to-one interviews for pupils in S2 and S3 and increased contact with parents and teachers. The review of CIAG services at South Lanarkshire Council has still to be concluded and will be reported later in 2017.

Scottish Attainment Challenge funding

19. The authority has spent most of its allocated Scottish Attainment Challenge funding. Plans for taking forward the Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) are under discussion.

Planned scrutiny activity

20. As shown in [Appendix 1](#), the council will be subject to a range of risk-based and nationally driven scrutiny activity during 2017/18. For some of their scrutiny activity in 2017/18, scrutiny bodies are still to determine their work programmes and which specific council areas they will cover. Where a council is to be involved, the relevant scrutiny body will confirm this with the council and the appropriate LAN lead.
21. In addition to specific work shown in [Appendix 1](#), routine, scheduled audit and inspection work will take place through the annual audit process and the ongoing inspection of school and care services by Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate respectively.
22. The Accounts Commission agreed the overall framework for a new approach to auditing Best Value in June 2016. Best Value will be assessed over the five year audit appointment, as part of the annual audit work. In addition a Best Value Assurance Report (BVAR) for each council will be considered by the Accounts Commission at least once in this five year period. The BVAR report for South Lanarkshire Council is not planned in the period covered by this scrutiny plan. The Best Value audit work planned this year will focus on the council's arrangements for demonstrating Best Value in financial planning, and financial governance and resource management, and will be reported in the Annual Audit Report.
23. Audit Scotland also plans to undertake performance audit work in a range of areas covering local government during 2017/18. These include Arms Length External Organisations (ALEOs), children's mental health and health and social care integration. Any engagement with individual councils is still to be determined. Details of future audit work are available on the Audit Scotland website [here](#).
24. The Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland will introduce a revised approach to the joint strategic inspections of services for adults for 2017/18 which will assess the extent to which the planning, organisation and coordination of services comply with the principles of integration and contribute to the national health and wellbeing outcomes. Inspections will include a focus on joint strategic commissioning. In 2017/18, the Care Inspectorate will also lead on thematic activity in the areas of adult support and protection, and self-directed support, working with a range of scrutiny partners.
25. In relation to its housing and homelessness services, SHR will engage with South Lanarkshire Council to monitor its progress in addressing the weaknesses identified in relation to factored owners satisfied with the factoring service; SHQS; time to complete non-emergency repairs and some aspects of its homelessness service. The council will submit half yearly progress reports in relation to its proposed improvement actions and outcomes. SHR will meet with council officials as necessary.

26. HMICS will continue to inspect local policing across Scotland during 2017/18 as part of its rolling work programme. These inspections will examine, among other things, local scrutiny of and engagement with Police Scotland by councils. HMICS will also consider the local policing division's contribution to partnership working.

Appendix 1: Scrutiny plan

Scrutiny body	Scrutiny activity	Date
Audit Scotland	Audit Scotland plans to undertake performance audit work on Arms Length External Organisations (ALEOs), city deals, early learning and childcare, and health and social care integration.	Dates to be determined
Education Scotland	Education Scotland will report on their review of the quality of Careers Information, Advice and Guidance (CIAG) services delivered by Skills Development Scotland across South Lanarkshire Council.	Spring 2017
Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR)	SHR will engage with South Lanarkshire Council to monitor its progress in addressing the weaknesses identified in relation to factored owners satisfaction; SHQS; time to complete non-emergency repairs and some aspects of its homelessness service. The council will submit half yearly progress reports in relation to its proposed improvement actions and outcomes. SHR will meet with council officials as necessary.	Half yearly
	SHR will publish the findings of its thematic inquiry work into gas safety and repairs completed during 2016/17. It may carry out further thematic inquiries during 2017/18. SHR will also review the Scottish Social Housing Charter data submitted by landlords and carry out data accuracy visits during the second quarter of 2017/18. Where councils are to be involved in a thematic inquiry or a data accuracy visit, the SHR will confirm this directly with the council and the LAN lead.	Timing to be confirmed

South Lanarkshire Council

Local Scrutiny Plan 2017/18

A summary of local government strategic scrutiny activity

This report is available in PDF and RTF formats,
along with a podcast summary at:

www.audit-scotland.gov.uk 

If you require this publication in an alternative
format and/or language, please contact us to
discuss your needs: 0131 625 1500
or info@audit-scotland.gov.uk 

For the latest news, reports
and updates, follow us on:



Audit Scotland, 4th Floor, 102 West Port, Edinburgh EH3 9DN

T: 0131 625 1500 E: info@audit-scotland.gov.uk 

www.audit-scotland.gov.uk 