

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

# OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

## ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19



**SOUTHAMPTON**  
CITY COUNCIL

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# Chair's Introduction

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## **Councillor P Baillie**

### **Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee – (OSMC) 2018/19**

Following last year's review by the House of Commons Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee into the effectiveness of overview and scrutiny in local government, the Government is due to publish new scrutiny guidance designed to improve the quality of scrutiny across local government. Whilst not wishing to pre-empt the Government's new guidelines, I think, that when you read the examples of effective scrutiny being undertaken across the Committees and Panels in Southampton, where scrutiny has demonstrably made a positive difference to local decision making and outcomes for Southampton residents, you will share my belief that scrutiny is alive and well in this council and is a vital part of the democratic process that needs continued support, buy-in and resource to make it work. Everyone benefits when it does.

In 2018/19 the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel shone a spotlight on important issues such as the performance of the Hampshire Wheelchair Service and Ophthalmology services; Oversight by the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel has resulted in improved awareness of the pressures threatening to jeopardise the sustainability of the early years sector in the city, and the need for Principals and Head Teachers to work with the council to find a solution that meets the vitally important Post 16 requirements of the city. The Scrutiny Inquiry Panel identified a number of actions that, if implemented effectively, could help to better prepare our population for the future of work, and, in the second inquiry of the year, to reduce and prevent domestic abuse. Finally, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee challenged the city's ambitions relating to some of the key issues facing Southampton, including climate change, air quality and the care of elderly and vulnerable residents in the city.

Following the feedback provided by the Local Government Association in their September 2017 peer review of the council that identified that, *'The Overview & Scrutiny function is making a valued and timely contribution to policy development and decision making'*, Scrutiny in Southampton has once again been the subject of positive external coverage in 2018/19. The Independent Review of Kentish Road Respite Centre Closure; and the subsequent investigations by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman, references the role that scrutiny played in support of the determined campaign to continue to provide respite care for adults with learning disabilities from the Kentish Road site.

This positive feedback is welcome as in councils dealing with risk, challenge and transformation, good scrutiny must be a key component. If public scrutiny is to continue to make a meaningful contribution to helping decision makers meet the difficult challenges they face, all scrutiny members must continue to be willing to question, and decision makers must be willing to listen and provide answers.

I am grateful to members of the various scrutiny panels for their hard work and contributions throughout the year. I am also grateful to all the local groups, national organisations and individuals who have attended, made presentations and provided evidence at scrutiny meetings, and to council officers and Cabinet Members for their attendance.

# The Purpose and Functions of Overview & Scrutiny

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## Decision making context

The Full Council of 48 councillors approves the policy framework which sets out the key policies and programmes for the main services provided by the Council. In February each year Council meets to set the Council Tax for the following year.

The Executive make decisions relating to services provided by the Council, except for those matters which are reserved for decision by the full Council, planning and licensing matters which are dealt with by specialist regulatory panels. The Executive is made up of a Leader, elected by Council, and his or her appointed Cabinet Members.

The Scrutiny function helps to inform the decision making process and improve the way the Council works. They assess what impact the Executive's policies and plans will have on the city and its residents.

Scrutiny is a process for:

- Holding the Cabinet, chief officers and senior members of staff to account for the discharge of its functions by examining, challenging and, if necessary requesting changes to Executive Decisions made but not yet implemented.
- Scrutinising and reviewing policies and practices within a cross-service remit, assisting in the development of such policies and practices and scrutinising policy outcomes – e.g. the implementation of strategic priorities.
- Reviewing decisions and policies made by the Executive and considering whether they are right for the city.
- Assessing the council's performance against its planned targets and monitoring critical success factors.
- Reviewing the work of other partnerships and public sector organisations in the city, particularly the Safe City Partnership and health providers and commissioners.
- Championing issues of local concern to residents and contribute to policy development and service improvement.

## Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC)

The OSMC is a parent committee that manages the overview and scrutiny process and meets on a monthly basis. The membership of the OSMC is appointed for the municipal year at the Annual Council meeting in May.

There are a number of Scrutiny Panels that support the work of the Executive and the council as a whole. The Scrutiny Inquiry Panel carries out a work programme of scrutiny inquiries approved by the OSMC. These arrangements allow citizens to have a greater say in council matters by holding public inquiries into matters of local concern. These member led inquiries lead to reports and recommendations which advise the Executive and the council as a whole on its policies, budget and service delivery.

In addition the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel undertakes the statutory scrutiny of health and adult social care agencies in Southampton, and the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel scrutinises services for children and families in the city, including education.

The OSMC also monitors the decisions of the Executive and can 'Call-In' a decision which has been made by the Executive but not yet implemented. This enables them to consider whether the decision is appropriate.

## Councillor Call for Action

Enables all councillors to refer single ward issues, or 'local government matters', to the OSMC.

## Scrutiny Panels 2018/19

- Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel
- Children and Families Scrutiny Panel
- Scrutiny Inquiry Panel

# Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

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**Councillor P Baillie**

**Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) - 2018/19**

## **Committee Members (April 2019)**

Councillor Galton (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Bell

Councillor Fitzhenry

Councillor Furnell

Councillor Harwood

Councillor Kataria

Councillor Mitchell

Councillor Whitbread

## **Appointed Members – Church Representatives**

Mrs Catherine Hobbs

Mr Rob Sanders

A number of important issues made repeat visits to the OSMC agenda in 2018/19, and, given the amount of people in attendance in the Council Chamber for some of the Committee's meetings, it would appear that these issues resonated with Southampton residents.

## **Clean Air Zone & Green City Charter**

The proposal for a Clean Air Zone in Southampton and the subsequent development of a Green City Charter provided the platform for a number of discussions on air quality, sustainable economic growth and actions that the city needs to take to help combat climate change.



A special meeting of the Committee was scheduled in January 2019 to debate the potential introduction of a charging Clean Air Zone and the Executive's preferred option, a package of non-charging measures to mitigate the risk of exceedance, and to promote ongoing improvements in air quality. The Committee on the whole welcomed the Executive's position but continued to question the willingness of the Administration to support air quality initiatives with the council's own resources.

The Green City Charter proved equally contentious. The Executive's decision not to develop the Charter via a cross-party working group, despite a commitment from the Leader and Cabinet Members to adopt this approach, resulted in this issue being the only item subject to Call-In in 2018/19. Given the need for a long-term approach to greening the city it is still essential that a consensus is reached on this issue to avoid this becoming subject to political changes in the council.

## **Proposal to close care homes**

The Committee considered the Executive's proposal to close Glen Lee and Holcroft House residential care homes in November 2018 and February 2019. On each occasion residents, relatives, staff and trade unions were in attendance and spoke passionately about the value of the service provided at the care homes and their contribution to wellbeing in the city.

Following consultation, the Executive, reflecting feedback and pressure, developed a compromise position favouring the closure of Glen Lee with Holcroft House remaining open. The discussions also identified a culture of poor financial and staff management at both care homes with significant budget overspends and extremely high levels of staff sickness. These issues, alongside the final Cabinet proposal on the future of the care homes, will be subject to further scrutiny in 2019/20.

## Strategic Services Partnership

Following the controversial decision to terminate the Strategic Services Partnership (SSP) contract, the OSMC has, on a number of occasions, provided oversight of the project to return the services currently provided by Capita to council control, and has scrutinised the Executive when key milestones were reached. The Committee remains concerned over so many services coming back to council control over a short period. When the 23 July 2019 deadline for the transfer of services passes the focus of the Committee will change to scrutinising the performance of the transferred services and the value for money they are offering residents of Southampton.

## Safe City Partnership

The statutory meeting to discuss the work of the Safe City Partnership was held in January 2019 to enable scrutiny of the Community Safety Strategic Needs Assessment. The assessment identified that in 2017/18 recorded crime rates had increased in Southampton for a fourth successive year.



Reflecting resource constraints the Committee recommended that the case for Southampton and Portsmouth to receive a fair share of any additional Police resources was made to the Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner, and, following concerns raised about the responsiveness of the service, the Committee requested that Hampshire Constabulary reviews the effectiveness of the 101 service.

## Holding the Executive to account

Whilst the Committee has prioritised a number of issues for detailed scrutiny the OSMC has continued to undertake the key role of holding the Executive to account through scrutinising the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions. To inform the decision making process the Executive were, at the monthly meetings of the OSMC, scrutinised over a number of decisions and policy areas during 2018/19. These included the following:

- Connected Southampton – 20 Year Local Transport Plan
- Substance Misuse Services
- Homelessness Prevention Strategy
- 2019/20 Budget Proposals
- Revised Home to School Transport Policy
- Education Capital Programme

## Looking ahead

As well as scrutiny of the impending care home closure decision, and the performance of services returning to the council from Capita, the Committee will, following the Governance Committee's consideration of the Local Government Ombudsman report on 15 May 2019, return to the issue of the Kentish Road Respite service and the publication of the proposals for the site in early 2019/20. There remain great concerns over the council's ability to provide a 7 day service.

In addition the issue of demand and funding for Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) has featured prominently in a number of separate discussions of the OSMC this year, including Home to School Transport and the Education Capital Programme. I anticipate, with the reconfiguration of Special Schools on the Forward Plan for decision in June 2019, the need to provide appropriate support for children with SEND will once again feature prominently at Committee meetings next year.

# Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel

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**Councillor Bogle**

**Chair of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel – 2018/19**

## **Panel Members (April 2019)**

Councillor White (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Bell

Councillor Houghton

Councillor Noon

Councillor Payne

Councillor Savage

The last year has seen ever increasing calls for an overhaul of Adult Social Care and how it is funded, the publication of the NHS long term plan whose principles are of place based health and care solutions (which mirrors Southampton and Hampshire’s direction of travel) and rising pressures from a growing population that is living longer but with many conditions to manage. The biggest challenges NHS trusts have raised relate to workforce issues and reaching the communities who need services the most. The Panel also commenced, with the new Local Transport Plan, scrutiny of cross cutting council strategies to ensure that the impact on health and wellbeing outcomes in Southampton is considered. The HOSP will continue to take a strong interest in public health outcomes and the prevention agenda in 2019/20.

## **Ophthalmology**

Ophthalmology services both locally and nationally have been under significant and sustained pressure for a number of years. University Hospital Southampton (UHS) has faced a significant backlog in ophthalmology, primarily in three life-long eye conditions; diabetes, age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and glaucoma. There have so far been a number of incidents reported where patient’s eye health has deteriorated/been harmed as they have not been reviewed in a timely manner and there is a risk that further patients may have come to harm.

Ophthalmology capacity has been on the Trust’s risk register since 2015. At the February 2019 HOSP meeting the Panel noted that the excessive wait for those with age related macular degeneration and diabetes patients has been addressed but that issues relating to the monitoring and treatment of glaucoma patients were still being addressed. The CCG and UHS are looking at new and simpler ways of dealing with service demand. The Panel will keep an oversight of performance in this area as simply doing more of the same will not prevent more patients from coming to harm.

## **Wheelchair Services**

The Hampshire Wheelchair Service started in April 2014. The service is provided by Millbrook Healthcare to meet the mobility needs of both children and adults. Since commencement the service has been under pressure due to higher than expected backlog of service users from the preceding provider and higher referral volume than originally expected or planned. A review of the Hampshire Wheelchair Service concluded in September 2017. Following the review work has been undertaken to improve the quality of the service and waiting times.



At the April 2019 meeting the Panel were informed that in Southampton the average wait in weeks for a wheelchair for adults was 16 weeks and for children it was 26 weeks as at the end of February 2019, including one child that had been waiting for 63 weeks for a shoulder harness to be fitted. Additional investment has been made by the CCG to reduce waiting times for children. This is expected to increase compliance with the national 18 week wait standard to 95% over the next 6 months and clear the backlog moving forward. The Panel have committed to revisiting this issue



in 2019/20 and will continue to hold providers and commissioners to account to improve outcomes for children and adults that rely upon this much needed service.

### **Positive Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspections**

Each of our NHS providers received a CQC inspection in 2018/19. Solent NHS Trust has been rated good, from requires improvement, UHS remains good, NHS Southampton Treatment Centre, run by Care UK, was rated outstanding, and Southern Health remains requiring improvement but the overall picture is one of steady progress. I would like to congratulate NHS providers on the progress that has been made in Southampton.



### **Closure of Beaulieu Ward**

In November 2018, due to staffing issues and challenges with the environment, Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust took the decision to temporarily close Beaulieu Ward, an Older People's Mental Health ward based at Western Community Hospital. The Panel expressed concern that the NHS Trust had opted to close the Southampton facility instead of Poppy Ward, at Gosport War Memorial Hospital, where facilities are available in nearby Portsmouth.

The HOSP were pleased to be informed that Beaulieu Ward will reopen to admissions to older people with mental health needs in June 2019. Following the recent publication of two Coroner's reports scrutiny of Southern Health will continue to be a priority for the Panel.

### **Sexual Health Services**

Reflecting the city's poor sexual health outcomes, Southampton ranks 29 out of 326 local authorities for acute STI rates where 1 is highest, and high teenage pregnancy rate, the issue of sexual health was considered at the November 2018 meeting. The timings of the discussion enabled the Panel to inform the development of the draft five year Reproductive and Sexual Health Improvement Plan that was agreed in November 2018.

### **Regular agenda items**

Despite some positive developments emergency flow at University Hospital Southampton and delayed transfers of care continue to cause concern. Performance was particularly challenging on Wednesday 28 November 2018 when UHS suffered a substantial power failure which caused approximately half of Southampton General Hospital (the east side of the site) to suffer a loss of power and lighting. The Trust declared a Major Incident and as a result of the incident, decisions were made to cancel and reschedule the majority of elective clinical activity that had been scheduled to take place on 28 November and redirect new emergency / non elective patients to other hospital trusts until 14.45hrs on 28 November. The Panel received a briefing on the incident and has asked to be kept informed of the progress made addressing the issues raised.

In August the Panel considered the performance of Adult Social Care, and implementation of the new target operating model. The HOSP noted the improvement in a number of key performance indicators but the Panel recognise that transformation is needed in this service and welcome the peer review due in May 2019 and look forward to hearing its findings.

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight System reform proposal developed by the Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) was considered by the Panel alongside the draft Southampton Health and Care Plan in 2018. Delivering against these partnership plans will be key to addressing some of the challenges facing the city.

Thank you to the support that officers from the council and CCG have given to the Panel this year. In particular I would like to express my thanks to John Richards, Chief Executive of the CCG who retires in June for his support to the Panel over numerous years.



# Children and Families Scrutiny Panel

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**Councillor Taggart**

**Chair of the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel – 2018/19**

**Panel Members (April 2019)**

Councillor Mitchell (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor J Baillie  
Councillor Guthrie

Councillor Keogh  
Councillor Laurent  
Councillor Murphy

**Appointed Members – Church Representatives**

Mrs Catherine Hobbs

Mr Rob Sanders

The Panel has once again undertaken a varied programme of scrutiny in 2018/19 reflecting findings from audit, inspection and performance reviews. Items for discussion and challenge have encompassed the breadth of services and subjects impacting on outcomes for children and young people. Understandably, safeguarding continues to be the priority for the Panel, however, educational attainment, at each key stage, has featured prominently on agendas this year.

## **Education - Early Years**

Attainment at Early Years Foundation Stage has been something that Southampton has rightly been proud of. At the July 2018 meeting, following national changes to Early Years entitlement, the Panel were provided with a holistic overview of Early Years provision in the city. The Panel were informed that the number of eligible 2 year olds taking up the early years offer was declining, as low as 44% in some areas of the city, and that, reflecting the financial pressures being experienced by a number of providers, concerns were raised about the long term viability of the sector in Southampton, and that budget pressures had resulted in the council reducing the level of available support to early years settings in Southampton. This led to concerns about the potential impact on Ofsted ratings and Early Years Foundation Stage results moving forward.

In recognition that high quality Early Years provision has significant short and long term impacts on the outcomes for children, the Panel will continue to have oversight of developments in this sector and attention will be paid to the 2018/19 Early Years Foundation Stage attainment levels when they are published.

## **Education – Post 16 Education and Training**

Reflecting concerns with regards to post 16 outcomes in Southampton, the Panel has, for the past 4 years, invited Principals and Head Teachers of the providers in Southampton to discuss post 16 education and training in the city. This year, following the rejection by the Education and Skills Funding Agency of the merger proposal between Eastleigh College and Southampton City College, the Panel were informed that the FE commissioner is conducting an urgent review into the options for post-16 learning in the city.

At the meeting, the Panel urged the invited Principals and Head Teachers to grasp the opportunity and work together to find a solution that meets the needs of the city. The integral role that the council can play in facilitating this was recognised and we look forward to considering the proposals, along with updates on the performance of the recently launched Solent Apprenticeship Hub.



## **Focus on Performance**

The Panel continued to use monthly performance management data to scrutinise the safeguarding of children in Southampton. This focus has helped members familiarise themselves with the service area, trends, pressures and the identification of key issues for future scrutiny.

The number of Looked After Children has continued to fall steadily as has the number of children on Child Protection Plans. This reflects the proactive work within Children's Services. However, the system is still under pressure with the MASH (children's safeguarding front door) receiving too many urgent and high risk contacts and too many contacts that could have been dealt with by referral partners effectively utilising their own safeguarding processes. As was stated in last year's report, whilst the performance trends are positive, monthly performance data is still prone to fluctuation, reflecting the limited resilience across certain services to respond to service pressures and the difficulty recruiting to social worker posts.

The Panel will continue to hold decision makers to account to ensure that improvements are sustainable and that learning from audits and reviews is incorporated into practice.

## **Early Help**

As indicated in the previous section, oversight of the monthly performance data identified that the MASH was receiving a high number of urgent and high risk cases with children needing to come into care at point of entry. This raised concerns that universal services and targeted early help services were not working as planned to divert and reduce risk.

At the September meeting, the Panel considered the proposals to develop early help services in Southampton. The service uses its resources, such as targeted family support and community health practitioners, with voluntary sector partners, and works with schools and other agencies to strengthen the response to community safeguarding, health and wellbeing, inclusion and early help in localities. The Panel was informed that the proposals will result in the early help offer becoming more targeted, with a greater focus on more complex families, as the service develops a more specialised offer, including mental health support and responding to domestic abuse. This is evidently a vitally important area and it is essential that these changes are effective. The impact of the changes will be considered by the Panel moving forward through scrutiny of the monthly datasets.

## **Looking Ahead**

The agendas for 2019/20 have yet to be determined but it is inevitable that the Panel will seek to re-visit a number of the issues scrutinised this year to challenge progress. For example, the educational attainment of Looked After Children and the support being offered through the Virtual School will remain a priority for the Panel when discussing exam results at the September 2019 meeting.

A number of issues of concern that may require further scrutiny were also raised by the Independent Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) during his presentation of the LSCB's Annual Report in January 2019. Despite the Independent Chair informing the Panel that he considered Southampton to be a safer place for children and young people now than when he has presented previous LSCB annual reports, concerns were raised about home education, on-line safety and County Lines.

I would like to thank the representatives from Hampshire Constabulary, NHS Southampton CCG, schools and colleges in Southampton and officers from Children and Families Services for attending meetings and providing the requested reports. Progress, albeit slow in some areas, is being made and it is essential that this improvement trajectory is maintained.

# Scrutiny Inquiry Panel

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**Councillor McEwing**

**Chair of the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel – 2018/19**

In 2018/19 the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel undertook two inquiries. Reflecting the potential impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and other trends on employment, the Panel, from September 2018 to March 2019, considered the future of work in Southampton. From January 2019 to April 2019 the Panel also considered opportunities to prevent and reduce domestic abuse in the city.

## Scrutiny Inquiry 1 - The Future of Work in Southampton

### The Future of Work in Southampton Inquiry - Panel Members (March 2019)

Councillor Fitzhenry (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Bogle  
Councillor Coombs

Councillor Furnell  
Councillor Guthrie  
Councillor Laurent

Forecasts indicate that the job market will look very different in 2030. Reports identify that advances in ‘smart automation’, the combination of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other digital technologies, have the potential to bring great benefits to the economy by boosting productivity and creating new and enhanced products and services. However, it will create job market instability with a number of roles at high risk of automation. In Southampton, it has been estimated that 22% of the current jobs in Southampton are in occupations very likely to decline by 2030.

Given the scale of the challenge the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee recommended ‘The Future of Work’ as an appropriate subject for a scrutiny inquiry at the August 2018 meeting.

### Consultation

The Scrutiny Inquiry Panel undertook the inquiry over 6 meetings and received information from a wide variety of organisations and individuals. This included the Chief Executive of Centre for Cities, Skills Champion for AI in the UK - Professor Dame Wendy Hall, the Chief Executive of the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), and officers from Southampton City Council.

A visit was also made to Network to develop the Panel’s understanding of the innovations currently being undertaken in light of trends for the future of work in Southampton.

### Findings and conclusions

Information presented to the Inquiry Panel identified that:

- The developments of the Fourth Industrial Revolution may lead to increased GDP across the UK but some jobs will be displaced as Artificial intelligence and smart automation makes roles obsolete.
- There is a skills mismatch in Southampton between where the city is now and where the city needs to be. A significant cohort of Southampton residents need to acquire new skills to succeed in



Source: Bakhshi et al. 2017, *Future of Skills: Employment in 2030*, London: Nesta and Pearson

the future labour market otherwise they are at risk of being left behind, resulting in increasing inequality and possible social tension in the city.

- Southampton is a significant player within the UK tech sector and is ahead of a lot of cities in a number of key aspects.
- More needs to be done to improve the image of the city; raise the profile of the tech sector and to better promote what Southampton has to offer as a '*City of Opportunity where everyone thrives.*'

## **Recommendations**

The final report of the Inquiry Panel contains 19 recommendations in total which, if implemented, the Panel believe will help to address the current skills mismatch in Southampton between where the city is now and where it needs to be, and will support the growth of the technology sector in Southampton.

## **Cabinet**

The inquiry report was presented to Cabinet in April 2019. A formal response from the Executive to the recommendations is expected to be considered at the July 2019 Cabinet meeting.

The final report of the Inquiry Panel can be accessed here:

<https://www.southampton.gov.uk/modernGov/documents/s39937/Appendix%201%20-%20Final%20report%20v5.docx.pdf>

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## **Scrutiny Inquiry 2 - Reducing and Preventing Domestic Abuse in Southampton**

### **Reducing and Preventing Domestic Abuse in Southampton Inquiry - Panel Members (April 2019)**

Councillor Harwood (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Coombs  
Councillor Galton

Councillor Laurent  
Councillor Mitchell  
Councillor Payne

Southampton has a high reporting rate of domestic abuse that continues to rise, with domestic violence accounting for 30% of all recorded violent crime in the city and the levels of reported domestic violence having risen for four consecutive years, including a 7% rise recorded in 2017/18.

Reflecting the information above, and the Committee's awareness, through scrutiny of council strategies, of the destructive impact of domestic abuse on individuals, families, communities and key outcomes across the city, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee recommended 'Reducing and Preventing Domestic Abuse' as an appropriate subject for a scrutiny inquiry at the November 2018 meeting.

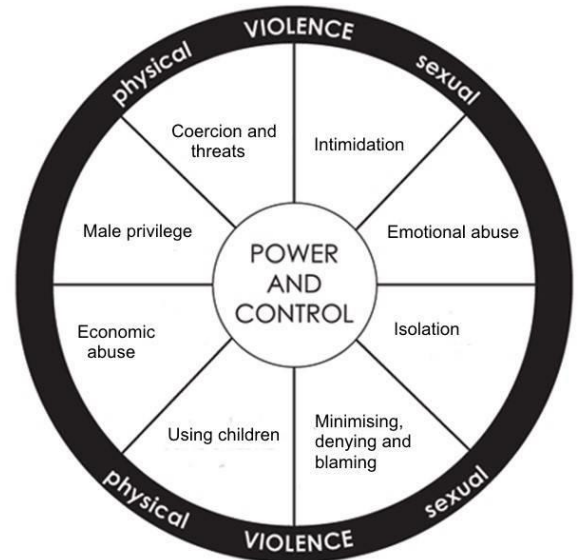
## **Consultation**

The Scrutiny Inquiry Panel undertook the inquiry over 4 meetings and received information from a wide variety of organisations. This included Respect - the leading UK membership organisation that works with domestic abuse perpetrators, domestic abuse service providers, charitable and voluntary organisations including Hampton Trust and Yellow Door, Hampshire Constabulary, Hampshire & IOW Community Rehabilitation Company, commissioners, and Southampton City Council officers.

## Findings and Conclusions

Information presented to the Inquiry Panel identified that:

- Southampton has a strong and well developed suite of victim and survivor domestic abuse services and the range of accredited perpetrator services in Southampton is comparable to any city in UK.
- It is not possible to reduce domestic abuse without reducing the number of people who are abusive. Key to reducing incidents of domestic abuse is to work at a whole population level to change the culture in society away from unhealthy and abusive values and behaviours; addressing adverse childhood experiences; and, to directly engage with perpetrators.
- There is a need to increase referrals to perpetrator services, and at an earlier stage, from agencies dealing with abuse.
- Opportunities exist to embed good practice and further improve partnership working.
- The Government's draft Domestic Abuse Bill provides an opportunity for Southampton to work with Government and to develop the evidence base to help inform commissioning decisions.
- There is a need to consider our relationship with risk factors (including alcohol, substance misuse and mental health).



Power & Control Wheel, Duluth Model (Ellen Pence et al, 1981; 2006)

## Recommendations

The final report of the Inquiry Panel contains 16 recommendations in total which, if implemented, the Panel believe will help to reduce and prevent domestic abuse through changing the culture and community response to perpetrator behaviour; increasing awareness of and pathways to perpetrator services; and using evidence to improve decision making in Southampton.

## Cabinet

The inquiry report will be presented to Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and Cabinet in June 2019. If the process follows the timetable above a formal response to the recommendations from Cabinet is expected at the August or September 2019 meeting.

The draft final report of the Inquiry that was considered by the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel at the 18 April 2019 meeting can be accessed here:

<https://www.southampton.gov.uk/modernGov/documents/s40119/Final%20Report%20-%20DRAFT%20v5.docx.pdf>

I would like to thank Tabassum Rahman, Scrutiny Intern, for her work on the scrutiny inquiries in 2018/19 and all the various experts, including numerous council officers, who found the time to attend meetings of the Inquiry Panel and prepare and present insightful information. Their contributions were genuinely appreciated.

# Getting Involved

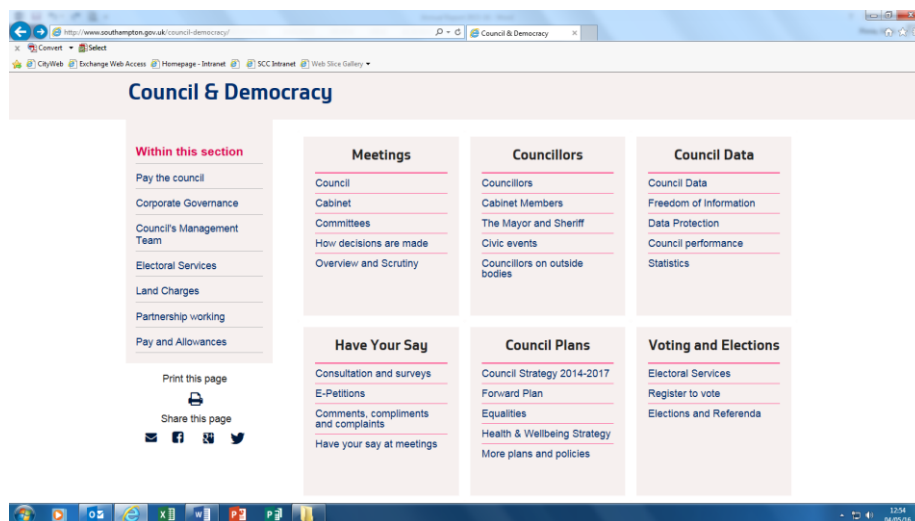
## How can I get involved?

There are a number of ways in which the public and interested organisations can get involved.

- **Attend a meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee or a Scrutiny Panel.** All scrutiny meetings are held in public and anyone is welcome to attend to listen to proceedings. Meetings are currently usually held in the Civic Centre. Only on rare occasions, when certain types of confidential information is being discussed, are members of the public not allowed to attend.
- Raise issues with your Councillor and request Overview and Scrutiny to consider as part of **Councillor Call for Action.**
- Give your feedback to inquiry meetings as part of evidence gathering.

Details of forthcoming scrutiny meetings, agendas, reports and minutes can be obtained from the City Council's website at:

<http://www.southampton.gov.uk/council-democracy/meetings/scrutiny/default.aspx>



## Providing written evidence

Scrutiny inquiries can consider written evidence and members of the public, community groups, or other key stakeholders can write in to bring evidence to the attention of Inquiry Panel members. Inevitably, scrutiny inquiries have only a limited amount of time, so they may not be able to hear oral testimony from all interested people.

Written evidence provides an alternative way to receive evidence from key stakeholders, policy makers, service providers, service users and community groups. Written evidence may put forward a particular perspective of the issue being considered, or may highlight evidence to help the investigation. It can also put forward questions for witnesses which may be taken up by members of the Panel during the discussion.

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