



REPORT TO:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	17 FEBRUARY 2011
REPORT OF THE:	HEAD OF TRANSFORMATION CLARE SLATER
TITLE OF REPORT:	SCRUTINY REVIEWS PROGRESS REPORT – HEALTHY WEIGHT AND POST OFFICES
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the progress achieved to date with the scrutiny reviews currently being undertaken.
- 1.2 To finalise the terms of reference for the Healthy Weight Scrutiny Review.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That members note the progress and the dates of future meetings of the task groups.
- 2.2 That the aim of the Healthy Weight Scrutiny Review be amended to say:
- Research levels of activity undertaken by adults aged between 16 and 25
 - Depending on the outcome of this research, to investigate practical ways the Council can help improve levels of adult participation

3.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

- 3.1 Any risks associated with the reviews are detailed in the report below.

4.0 BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

- 4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has commissioned two scrutiny reviews and the terms of reference have previously been agreed by this committee for each of these. These are attached at annex A.
- 4.2 A recent publication issued by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills 'Securing the Post office Network in the Digital Age' stated that 'There will be no programme of post office closures under this Government'. The Department has confirmed that this statement includes outreach services which accounts for 38% of Ryedale's Post Office Services. The terms of reference were amended at the previous meeting to take this into account.

- 4.3 The inaugural meeting of the Healthy Weight Review Task Group received a presentation from the Health Improvement Manager from NHS North Yorkshire and York. This presentation clarified the current position in Ryedale and the improvements being made, it also made clear the need to develop a very clear and focussed scope for the review. This lesson has been learned in a number of other parts of the country when undertaking scrutiny reviews into this area of work. At the latest Task Group meeting, it was agreed that the scope for the review should focus on adults, as it was felt there were already effective initiatives in place to tackle childhood obesity. The group thought there was a gap in knowledge in relation to adults, specifically, young adults aged between 16 and 25.
- 4.4 Action Plans are in place for each of the reviews and progress is reported at the Task Group meetings.

5.0 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 A community Engagement Plan is being developed for each review

6.0 REPORT DETAILS

6.1 Post Office Review:

Key Points arising from previous discussions of the Task Group included:

- It is difficult to determine which services are available at each branch/outreach service within Ryedale.
- We need to understand how communities feel about the services they do or don't receive.
- We would like to speak to sub-postmasters and providers of outreach services within Ryedale to find out their views on the current situation and implications of proposed future changes.
- The BIS have published a report entitled Securing the Post office Network in the Digital Age on 12 November 2010. The implications of this report need to be identified.
- We need to analyse costs associated with payments of Council Tax at the post office and profile the users of this service.
- We need to understand the implications of our post offices taking on additional local government services.

Progress to date

Post Office and Outreach Services are categorised by the services they offer, however, it is still not clear which services are provided unless customers contact the service directly or use the Post Office website.

A very productive meeting has been held with a local sub-postmaster. The sub-postmaster helped us to understand his business, the service he provides and his opinion of plans for future provision including access to services that could be provided on behalf of the Council.

Contact has been made with a Post Office Programmes Stakeholder Manager with a view to meeting with the Task Group to discuss:

- Sustaining a rural network
- The future of Ryedale's Outreach services
- The 'local model' and current pilot studies

- Local Government Services at post offices and the benefits of these in more remote branches
- Customer satisfaction with services they now receive after the closure programme and their current patterns of use

Questionnaires are being developed for approval at the next Task Group meeting which will be used to engage with general post office customers and customers of outreach services.

Actions still to be taken include:

- Meeting with a provider of the mobile services in an area of Ryedale
- Meeting with a representative of the Post Office network
- Finding out more about the potential for the proposed model of the 'Post Office Local'
- Discuss links to future changes to one stop shops and the access to services programme with NYCC and partners
- Study use of payment cards

6.2 Health Weight Review:

Following the presentation by Greg McGrath, Health Improvement Manager for NHS North Yorkshire and York, the Healthy Weight Task Group reviewed his recommendations and supporting evidence from the study undertaken by the Centre for Public Scrutiny. One of the key findings was, for a review to be successful; it needs to focus on a specific area.

With reference to childhood obesity in Ryedale the situation is improving and levels of obesity are improving. This is as a result of concerted and focussed effort from partners across the public sector. Ryedale is ahead of other areas in having taken this approach.

The Task Group reviewed the issue of obesity in adults, statistically levels of adult obesity in Ryedale are the second highest in North Yorkshire (Obese adults 27.5%, Morbidly Obese adults 2.1%). These statistics from 2007 are based on synthetic estimates. Discussions around participation in sport and physical activity in Ryedale, led the group to question whether the crucial age of deciding whether to be involved in an activity or not happens after leaving school between the ages of 16-25. The Task Group concluded that this would be a beneficial area to focus on.

Actions following the meeting include:

- Investigate whether any research has been undertaken nationally around lapsed participation in sport and physical activity at this age. What are the key findings and recommendations?
- If no research has been undertaken, the Task Group felt it would be beneficial to undertake this research in Ryedale.
- Depending on the outcomes of this research, the Group could investigate practical ways the Council can help improve adult participation across all age groups.

7.0 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Post Office Scrutiny Review Task Group - 28 February 2011, 6.30pm, Ryedale House

Healthy Weight Scrutiny Review Task Group - 28 February 2011, 7.30pm Ryedale House

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Background Papers:

Post Offices:

Securing the Post Office Network in the Digital Age
Research summary and other papers available in Transformation Team

Healthy Weight:

Presentation on the current position in Ryedale – Greg McGrath, Health Improvement Manager, NHS North Yorkshire and York
Study of Childhood Obesity Scrutiny Reviews by the Centre for Public Scrutiny
Profiling and data related to healthy weight in Ryedale and Nationally
Papers available in Transformation Team

Annex A

Impact of Post Office Closures Scrutiny Review –Terms of Reference

Aim of the Review	<p>To find practical ways by which Ryedale DC and its partners can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the availability of services in local communities. • Provide an evidence base from which to influence future changes or reductions in levels of service • To consider the options for delivering these services in future
Why has this review been selected?	<p>Ryedale lost a significant number of post offices through the network change programme in 2008. Changes to the provision put in place at the time of the closure programme continue as do actual post office closures. The Council needs to have evidence to respond to any forthcoming consultations on further closures or changes to the network. Also the Council may be able to work with post offices and other local community facilities to provide post office type services to our communities.</p>
Who will carry out the review?	<p>The review will be carried out by a task group including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum of 2 members of the O and S committee (but open to all) • The Head of Transformation • The Customer Services and Benefits Manager • Support will be provided by members of the Transformation Team
How the review will be carried out?	<p>The task group will consider the impact of the post office closure programme on local communities. This will involve the study of recent research documents and the engagement of local people to ascertain the impact of changes in levels of service including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-postmasters engaged in a range of delivery methods • Service users interviewed at a variety of locations utilising different delivery methods <p>The review will also investigate options for future provision of post office services and any value the Council can add through its own service delivery.</p> <p>Evidence will be gathered on the levels of usage of post office services and the range of services available and satisfaction with and usage of these. This will include the usage and needs of businesses in relation to post office services.</p> <p>Evidence gathering sessions will be open to the public.</p>
What are the expected outputs?	<p>It is expected that the task group will produce a report, summarising the evidence they have gathered and containing specific recommendations for the Council and other partner organisations as appropriate.</p>
Timescale	<p>It is anticipated that the group will report the outcomes of the review before 31 March 2011. Progress reports will be submitted to the committee throughout the review.</p>

Healthy Weight Scrutiny Review – Draft Terms of Reference

Aim of the Review	<p>To find practical ways by which Ryedale DC and its partners can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve services aimed at encouraging the prevention of obesity and achievement of a healthy weight for all residents and of all ages across the district. • Improve responses to existing obesity, helping people to lose weight and live healthier lives • Achieve improvements within the current challenging public sector funding climate • Anticipate the role the Council can play in improving this aspect of public health and reducing health inequalities in light of changes in legislation which may follow the recent Health White Paper
Why has this review been selected?	<p>Ryedale has had high levels of obesity in all ages but notable in children, for a number of years. The Ryedale Strategic Partnership identified the achievement of a healthy weight as a priority for action in 2006. A number of projects and initiatives have been funded through the RSP and supported by officers of a number of partner organisations. Work to help people to achieve a healthy weight is being led by the Ryedale Healthy Weight Active Lives group.</p>
Who will undertake the review?	<p>The review will be carried out by a task group including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum of 2 members of the O and S committee (but open to all) • The Head of Transformation • A representative of the Ryedale Healthy Weight Active Lives group • A representative from the Primary Care Trust. • Support will be provided by members of the Transformation Team
How will the review be undertaken?	<p>The task group will consider the arrangements that have been and need to be put in place across local partnerships to maximise the prevention of and response to obesity in Ryedale. Key to this will be contributing to the development of the Ryedale Healthy Weight Strategy.</p> <p>There will be a two stage scrutiny process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An initial desktop review of existing evidence will consider key academic and government documents, the current picture of 'healthy weight' across Ryedale, and activity on-going in Ryedale to achieve healthier lifestyles. • The second stage will involve an in-depth review of key issues and evidence gathering in order to inform the task group recommendations. <p>Evidence gathering sessions will be open to the public.</p>
What are the expected outputs?	<p>It is expected that the task group will produce a report, summarising the evidence they have gathered and containing specific recommendations for the Council, the Primary Care Trust, and other partner organisations as appropriate.</p>
Timescale	<p>It is anticipated that the group will report the first phase of the review in November 2010. The deadline for the second stage of the review will be established at this time.</p>