



---

**REPORT TO:** OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 14 APRIL 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.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That members note the progress and the dates of future meetings of the task groups.

### **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.

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 have been amended by the committee 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. 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. The terms of reference have been amended by the committee to take this into account.
- 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:**

A Post Office Programmes Stakeholder Manager met with members at the latest Task Group meeting. He described his work creating a sustainable, viable network and members asked questions about the future of Ryedale's Post Office branches and outreach services. The manager has provided the Task Group with information regarding the Post Office Local pilots currently running in Sheffield and clearer information regarding the services currently offered at the branches in Ryedale.

As recently published in the BIS document, PO Ltd are proposing changes to the network and the outcome has not yet been finalised. PO Ltd would like to work with the Council, local sub-postmasters and the Ryedale community to understand how the proposals might work in a rural area. They particularly interested in:

- What communities think of the network currently, including the range of products and services offered
- What the aspirations are for the future network in Ryedale
- How best to engage with the communities of Ryedale

A meeting with North Yorkshire County Council's Scrutiny Support Officer has taken place to understand how this Post Office Scrutiny Review links with the Access to Services Review that they are currently undertaking. The A2S review is focussing on community led projects and how they can be supported e.g. Stillington community run Post Office and shop, Hudswell community pub, NYNET project. A meeting has been arranged for the NYCC review group to visit Stillington Post Office and they have agreed to share the findings with the Task Group.

Actions to be taken include:

- Meeting arranged in May with the provider of the mobile service in Ryedale, a local sub-postmaster and the Post Office Programmes Stakeholder Manager
- Questionnaires have been drafted awaiting feedback from PO Ltd
- Study the use of Council Tax payment cards
- Mapping of rural businesses where alternative Post Office services are available including Paypoint and parcel delivery services.

## 6.2 Health Weight Review:

It has been agreed to focus the scope of the review on levels of activity undertaken by adults in particular 16 – 25 year olds.

At the last meeting, the Task Group reviewed progress made so far and discussed the research that Sport England have undertaken into lapsing from sport. The Council's Community Projects Officer (Sport & Recreation) attended the meeting and advised the group of the work he is involved in developing a sport and recreation strategy and action plan, which will be presented to the Commissioning Board in Autumn 2011. As part of the strategy, consultation work is being undertaken with the citizen's panel and wider community. Copies of the questionnaire have already been circulated to members. It is anticipated that the analysis of the results will be available in June, to be presented to the next task group meeting in July. Recommendations from the review would then be able to feed into the development of the Sport and Recreation strategy.

Actions following the meeting include:

- Analysis of the survey results to be available for the next meeting of the task group.
- 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 Review – Tuesday 12th July 6.30-7.30**

**Healthy Weight Review – Tuesday 12th July 7.30 – 8.30 Healthy Weight**

**Clare Slater**  
**Head of Transformation**

**Author:** Jane Robinson and Justine Coates, Transformation Team  
**Telephone No:** 01653 600666 ext 297 & 228  
**E-Mail Address:** [jane.robinson@ryedale.gov.uk](mailto:jane.robinson@ryedale.gov.uk) & [justine.coates@ryedale.gov.uk](mailto:justine.coates@ryedale.gov.uk)

### **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  
Sport England – Project Experience of Sport – Understanding the lapsed target - 2008  
Papers available in Transformation Team