

Adults and Health Committee

Health Scrutiny Best Practice Training and Development Session: 21st September 2023

Feedback and suggestions from individual members following the session:

1. More explicit consultation with Healthwatch to input into future scrutiny priorities.
2. Take advice from the Public Health Team and the Council's Chief Executive (who is a member of the ICB) on key underperforming services or issues in the local NHS.
3. Need to be more selective about the topics identified for scrutiny to make best use of the time available.
4. Hold pre-meetings earlier. Share embargoed scrutiny reports ahead of this to give Members time to identify any factual issues they want clarified before the public meeting and agree key lines of enquiry.
5. Provide prior reading and intelligence on the issue concerned, to provide alternative perspectives.
6. Make use of the new informal pre-committee meetings as a mechanism to bring questioning together.
7. Generate a 'Big Questions' list for requests on reports from the service being scrutinised, with early consultation with Members on questions they want addressed.
8. More probing questions.
9. Set up and service task and finish groups where appropriate.
10. Consider how best to formulate more detailed and effective recommendations.
11. Use guidance from [the Francis Report \(2013\)](#) as a structure for publishing committee recommendations.
12. Better follow-up on recommendations and actions made during scrutiny sessions.
13. Look again at the length of the morning committee session.
14. Take a more strategic approach to quarterly liaison meetings, with half the time being spent on briefings/ updates and half exploring potential scrutiny topics which have been identified beforehand.
15. One liaison meeting per year to take place on site where possible to look first-hand at a specific service.

16. Liaison meetings to be chaired by a lead member or county councillor.
17. A more reflective scrutiny-planning session, perhaps as a standalone meeting.
18. The Chair referenced Cllr Boden's feedback around allowing follow-up and supplementary questions to develop a line of questioning. In response, he was now taking questions in rounds and allowing follow-up questions.
19. Being more proactive in publicising scrutiny sessions and promoting their outcomes.