

South Lanarkshire Council

Local Scrutiny Plan 2015/16



March 2015

South Lanarkshire Council

Local Scrutiny Plan 2015/16

Introduction

1. This local scrutiny plan (LSP) sets out the planned scrutiny activity for South Lanarkshire Council during 2015/16¹. The plan is based on a shared risk assessment (SRA) 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 2015/16, which is available on the Audit Scotland website.

Scrutiny risks

3. Last year's Assurance and Improvement Plan (AIP) noted that South Lanarkshire council was continuing to take forward its improvement agenda and seeking to provide high quality public services. It also noted that the council demonstrated a commitment to continuous improvement. As such, the AIP indicated that no risk-based scrutiny was required during 2014/15.
4. The SRA undertaken by the LAN this year has again identified no scrutiny risks for South Lanarkshire Council that require additional risk-based scrutiny during 2015/16. However, it has agreed that some areas of the council's activity will be subject to ongoing monitoring and oversight by the LAN during the year.
5. During 2014/15, the Care Inspectorate led a joint inspection of services for children and young people across the South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) area. The inspection report, published in February 2015, highlighted strengths but also recommended that improvements are made to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and young people. Across nine quality indicators, one was found to be 'very good,' four were found to be 'good' and four were found to be 'adequate'.
6. Partners now need to demonstrate a stronger integrated approach to drive forward practice change which will help to close outcome gaps more successfully. They should

¹ From 2015/16, the annual Local Scrutiny Plan (LSP) replaces the previous Assurance and Improvement Plan (AIP).

pay particular attention to improving support for care leavers. They need to further strengthen their work towards prevention and early intervention, ensuring that priorities are informed by a robust and transparent needs assessment across the whole partnership area.

7. The Care Inspectorate requires a joint action plan to be provided which clearly details how the South Lanarkshire CPP will make improvements in the key areas identified by inspectors. The South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) is committed to working in collaboration with the Care Inspectorate to address the issues identified. Since publication of the report, it has begun to take a range of actions to deliver improvement. The Care Inspectorate and other bodies that took part in this inspection will monitor the CPP's progress in taking forward their action plan. The LAN will maintain oversight of progress made in this area.
8. The local government benchmarking framework shows that satisfaction with social care services for adults in South Lanarkshire is low and worsening in comparison to other council areas². Provision of care services for adults will be subject to an inspection led by the Care Inspectorate in 2015.
9. The LAN will monitor the council's provision of housing services during 2015/16. In its risk assessment, the LAN identified several strengths within the service but also areas requiring improvement, including: relatively low levels of satisfaction amongst tenants at being kept informed and their opportunities to participate in the decision-making processes; poor response times in dealing with housing repairs; the amount of rent being collected; and the effectiveness of relationships with local RSLs in housing homeless households. The council has identified potential areas for improvement and, through the SHR's charter returns, the LAN will monitor the councils progress.
10. As part of its ongoing commitment to continuous improvement, the council has effectively implemented self-assessment across much of the organisation through *Empower*, the council's version of the Public Sector Improvement Framework toolkit (PSIF). Following its success to date, the council is continuing to carry out a programme of *Empower* assessments during 2015/16. In making its risk assessment, the LAN views this as a positive development for driving improvement and change. It will be interested in seeing how this supports the council in generating improvements that contribute to meeting the challenges it faces during the next few years.
11. Health and Social Care integration is a significant strategic development for the council in 2015. The Council has been piloting its newly established Joint Board for Health and Social Care integration during 2014. Work is ongoing to complete an integration scheme that is due to be submitted to the Scottish Government for approval by April 2015. Work is also ongoing, within the same timescale, to complete a consultation plan, ensuring that service users, carers, clinicians and care professionals are involved in the

² Local government benchmarking framework draws on data from the Scottish Household Survey.

preparation, implementation and monitoring of plans designed to meet the needs of local people.

12. Full integration of health and social care services should be in place by April 2016, and a strategic plan for South Lanarkshire will be developed setting out how the HSCP will meet both nationally and locally agreed outcomes. Communications are ongoing with NHS Lanarkshire to ensure that plans are sufficient to meet the above timescales. This is an issue the LAN will maintain an interest in over 2015/16.
13. During 2014, Audit Scotland completed a further five Best Value Audits of community planning partnerships (CPPs) and in November 2014 published a second national overview report for community planning in Scotland. This report highlights a number of challenges relevant to all CPPs that will be of interest to the council and its partners as they work to refresh South Lanarkshire's current community planning strategy (covering the period 2005–2015).
14. A number of councils across Scotland have been affected by the liquidation of open cast mine companies. A briefing paper on these issues was presented to the Accounts Commission in March 2015. This paper highlighted financial implications for councils as well as a set of broader issues for councils associated with site restoration following other activities such as renewable energy developments, quarries and landfill sites. It is proposed to gather further evidence on the scale and significance of these wider developments and then report back to the Commission.
15. There are four affected opencast coal sites in South Lanarkshire. Each of them has a restoration bond. The council has settled one of these bonds and is progressing arrangements and legal processes to secure the bond monies from the bondholders for the other three. It fully anticipates that these will be settled. The council has conducted an internal review to establish its responsibilities in relation to restoring the open cast coal sites. It plans a further review of the adequacy and effectiveness of its procedures moving forward. The various alternatives available for restoring these sites are being considered and options are available that can restore the sites to a satisfactory level based on the anticipated receipts from bond holders. External audit and the LAN will continue to monitor the council's actions in this area.

Planned scrutiny activity

16. As shown in Appendix 1, there is no risk-based scrutiny activity planned in South Lanarkshire during 2015/16. The council will however be subject to some scrutiny activity as part of wider national Inspection programmes across Scotland
17. The Care Inspectorate and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) will conduct a joint national thematic review of multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) in Scotland during 2014 and 2015. This forms part of a wider programme of national inspection, and is not a result of the LAN shared risk assessment. The purpose of the review will be to assess the state, efficiency and

effectiveness of the MAPPA in Scotland, in terms of keeping people safe and reducing the potential risk of serious harm by registered sex offenders in our communities. It will cover all 32 local authority areas and involve councils, Police Scotland, NHS Boards and the Scottish Prison Service. Fieldwork for this joint review is scheduled to take place across Lanarkshire in June 2015.

18. The Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) will carry out a joint inspection of services for adults across the South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) area. The specific focus of the inspection will be on services for older people. This is part of the wider national programme of scrutiny work being undertaken by the Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland and has not arisen through the LAN risk assessment. Fieldwork is planned to take place between September and November 2015.
19. HMICS will be inspecting local policing across Scotland over the next three years. These inspections will examine, amongst other things, local scrutiny and engagement between Police Scotland and councils. Three local policing divisions are programmed to be inspected in 2015/16. The divisions will be identified approximately three months prior to inspection, the first being no earlier than October 2015.
20. Her Majesty's Fire Service Inspectorate (HMFSI) will be inspecting local fire and rescue services across Scotland over the next five years. These inspections will examine, amongst other things, local scrutiny and engagement between the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and councils. As part of its programme, HMFSI will inspect four local fire and rescue services during 2015/16. South Lanarkshire is not included in the programme this year.
21. Education Scotland will be working in partnership with councils to carry out a validated self-evaluation (VSE) of educational psychology services across all councils over a two-year period beginning in 2015/16. Education Scotland will notify relevant councils of its VSE plans each academic term.
22. The Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) has a planned programme of thematic inquiries into housing services, which will be carried out largely in the first quarter of 2015/16, with publication of inquiry reports in the first and second quarters of the year. The thematic inquiries will cover a range of housing services including: Gypsy/Travellers; factoring services; gas safety; complaints handling; customer service standards; repairs; rent consultation; equalities; and openness and accessibility. Some of the thematic inquiries will not involve any on-site work at all and no local authority will be selected for on-site work in more than one thematic. The SHR will contact individual landlords with details about their potential inclusion.
23. During the first and second quarters of the year, the SHR will review the charter data submitted by social landlords in May 2015 and identify topics for a further programme of thematic inquiries to be taken forward in the second and third quarters of the year.

24. Audit Scotland has three planned performance audits covering local government during 2015/16. It will be working jointly with the Care Inspectorate looking at social care and jointly with both the Care Inspectorate and Health Improvement Scotland (HIS) on a Health and Social care integration position statement. It will also carry out a follow-up audit on roads maintenance. Any engagement with councils is still to be determined. Publication of these reports is scheduled for between October 2015 and February 2016.
25. 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 establishments by Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate respectively. Audit Scotland will carry out a programme of [performance audits](#) during 2015/16 and individual audit and inspection agencies will continue to monitor developments in key areas of council activity and will provide support and challenge as appropriate. This will help to inform future assessment of scrutiny risk.

Appendix 1: Scrutiny plan

Scrutiny body	Scrutiny activity	Date
Care Inspectorate and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMICS)	Joint national thematic review of multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) to assess the state, efficiency and effectiveness of the MAPPA in Scotland, in terms of keeping people safe and reducing the potential risk of serious harm by registered sex offenders in our communities. It will cover all 32 local authority areas and involve councils, Police Scotland, NHS Boards and the Scottish Prison Service.	June 2015
Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS)	Joint inspection of services for adults across the South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) area. The specific focus of the inspection will be on services for older people.	September - November 2015
Audit Scotland	Audit Scotland has three planned performance audits covering local government during 2015/16. It will be working jointly with the Care Inspectorate looking at social care and jointly with both the Care Inspectorate and HIS on a Health and Social care integration position statement. It will also carry out a follow-up audit on roads maintenance. Any engagement with councils is still to be determined.	To be confirmed
Education Scotland	Education Scotland will be working in partnership with councils to carry out a validated self-evaluation (VSE) of educational psychology services across all councils over a two-year period beginning in 2015/16. Education Scotland will notify relevant councils of its VSE plans each academic term.	To be confirmed
HMICS	HMICS will be inspecting local policing across Scotland over the next three years. These inspections will examine, amongst other things, local scrutiny and engagement between Police Scotland and councils. Three local policing divisions are programmed to be inspected in 2015/16. The divisions will be identified approximately three months prior to inspection, the first being no earlier than October 2015.	To be confirmed
Her Majesty's Fire Service Inspectorate (HMFSI)	HMFSI will be inspecting local fire and rescue services across Scotland over the next five years. These inspections will examine, amongst other things, local scrutiny and engagement between the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and councils. As part of its programme, HMFSI will inspect four local fire and rescue services during 2015/16. South Lanarkshire is not included in the programme this year.	To be confirmed
Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR)	The SHR has a planned programme of thematic inquiries into housing services which will be carried out largely in the first quarter of 2015/16. The thematic inquiries will cover a range of housing services including: Gypsy/Travellers; factoring services; gas safety; complaints handling; customer service standards; repairs; rent consultation; equalities; and openness and	To be confirmed

	<p>accessibility. Some of the thematic inquiries will not involve any on-site work at all and no local authority will be selected for on-site work in more than one thematic. The SHR will contact individual landlords with details about their potential inclusion.</p> <p>During the first and second quarters of the year, the SHR will review the charter data submitted by social landlords in May 2015 and identify topics for a further programme of thematic inquiries to be taken forward in the second and third quarters of the year.</p>	
--	---	--