

# County and Unitary Councils' Officer Overview and Scrutiny Network

Friday 10th March 2023 Starting at 11.00 am

This will be a virtual meeting using Microsoft Teams

Chair: John Cade  
Secretary: Paul Thistlewood - Isle of Wight Council  
Minutes: Megan Tuckwell - Isle of Wight Council

## Agenda

1. Introduction by the Chairman and housekeeping for the meeting
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2022
3. Progress with the Health and Care Act

To discuss further progress since the network's last meeting with key aspects of the Act and implications for health scrutiny. Of particular interest is the Public Accounts Committee report [Introducing Integrated Care Systems - Committee of Public Accounts \(parliament.uk\)](https://www.parliament.uk/publications/2022/12/introducing-integrated-care-systems) which presents a rather stark picture of the current benefits of Integrated Care Partnerships together with the provision (or lack) of NHS dentistry.

## 4. Centre for Governance and Scrutiny Update

To receive an update from the Centre on its current and future activities.

## 5. Scrutiny in devolution deals

It is understood that the Government may want to create a new English devolution accountability framework which could include a scrutiny protocol. Is there any current evidence of this at the current time?

## 6. Scrutiny and confidential documents

When the statutory guidance was reviewed and updated in 2019 specific mention was made regarding scrutiny's power to access information. This item will give the opportunity for colleagues to identify if the guidance has assisted in gaining access to confidential papers or is there still a reluctance to release this to scrutiny members.

## 7. Training Session – Skills in Reviewing and Understanding Performance Information

The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny has kindly offered to facilitate a short training session as part of the Network's meetings. Following discussion between the chairman,

secretary and the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny it is proposed to look at skills in reviewing and understanding performance information. This will cover issues such as :-

- Availability of updated data for scrutiny members.
- How can scrutiny influence the way data is recorded and reported.
- Should performance information only be reported on an exception basis.
- Benefits of having a lead scrutiny member for delving into the information.
- The type of performance information that should be a regular feature such as complaints, compliance with statutory timeframes for matters such as FoI request.

The topics of future sessions will be :-

- 30 June 2023 – Financial scrutiny
- 8 September 2023 - Scoping and managing scrutiny reviews
- 1 December 2023 – questioning skills

## **8. Ask the Network**

An opportunity to seek the thoughts of other network colleagues to help overcome that small niggling problem that you may be experiencing or share an experience that is of wider interest.

## **9. Future meetings and support arrangements**

The next meeting is on Friday 30 June 2023 commencing at 11.00am and to be virtual. Dates for the rest of 2023 are 8 September and 1 December.