OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Subject:	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2008 – 2009
Date of Meeting:	2 June 2009
Report of:	Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission
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Wards Affected: All	

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 In its role coordinating the work of the overview and scrutiny (O&S) function the Overview and Scrutiny Commission (OSC) is required to produce an Annual Report to Council.
- 1.2 This report details the work undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Panels at Brighton & Hove City Council during the year 2008-2009. It also highlights developments that will impact upon the overview and scrutiny function in the coming year.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

2.1 That the Members endorse this report, suggest changes and agree its presentation to Council on the 16 July.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- 3.1 2008-2009 was the first year of new constitutional arrangements for Brighton and Hove City Council, with the introduction of a Cabinet system alongside an increased scrutiny function.
- 3.2 O&S has been developing over the course of the year. Outlined below are examples of good practice from each Committee and summaries of the work of each of the Scrutiny Panels.
- 3.3 As agree at Council in April officers are researching examples of good practice from around the country and will be reporting in the autumn with recommendations as how to further develop the overview and

scrutiny function. This will include looking at how other local authorities have implemented powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

- 3.4 There are currently six overview and scrutiny committees, including the Overview and Scrutiny Commission. The remit and 2008/9 membership of each Committee is set out in Appendix 1.
- 3.5 It has become standard practice for each O&S Committee to establish a Scrutiny Panel. These are intended to "carry out short, sharply focused pieces of scrutiny work. As a guide, the work of these Panels should be capable of being conducted within 3 meetings or less."
- 3.6 To date eight scrutiny panels and one select committee have been established under the new constitution arrangements and the Dual Diagnosis of Mental Health and Substance Misuse Panel, established under the previous constitutional arrangements, has recently agreed its report.
- 3.7 Panel reports are taken for agreement to the parent O&S Committee and then to the appropriate decision making body for consideration. All reports are tabled at Council for information. A list of panels is found below:
 - Dual Diagnosis of Mental Health and Substance Misuse
 - Students in the Community
 - Reducing Alcohol Related Harm to Children and Young People
 - Older People and Community Safety
 - Climate Change Adaptation
 - Environmental Industries
 - Dignity at Work
 - GP Led Health Centre
 - Street Accessibility
 - Dementia Strategy (Select Committee)

4. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES:

4.1 Overview and Scrutiny Commission (OSC)

4.2 The OCS takes a strategic coordinating role across all the O&S Committees as well as having a remit to look at central and support service, equalities, sustainability and partnerships. The OSC receives six monthly equality updates and regularly reviews LAA performance data.

- 4.3 The OSC has a key role in scrutinising the annual budget setting process. During 2008/9 budget proposals were brought to a special meeting of the Commission and underwent significant examination. The Commission is reviewing how best to undertake budget scrutiny in 2009/10.
- 4.4 In March the OSC met to consider whether or not to call in the Cabinet decision relating to the disposal of then former Ice-Rink site in Queens Square. Following detailed analysis of the issues and evidence the Committee did refer the decision back to Cabinet for re-examination.
- 4.5 The OSC is the parent Committee for the following panels:
- 4.6 **Dual Diagnosis of Mental Health and Substance Misuse Issues** Councillors David Watkins, Pat Hawkes, Keith Taylor.
- 4.7 The Panel was initiated by the former Overview and Scrutiny Organisation Committee to investigate and suggest improvements to the provision of health, housing and support services for those in the community who suffer from substance misuse and mental health problems.
- 4.8 Dual Diagnosis is an important issue, as sufferers are amongst our most vulnerable and our most challenging citizens. More effective treatment of Dual Diagnosis will better the lives of everyone in the city, as it will impact upon chaotic and anti-social behaviour as well as improving things for sufferers themselves.
- 4.9 The Panel held five evidence gathering meetings in public. The witnesses included clinicians and managers from Sussex Partnership Foundation NHS Trust (the main provider of statutory mental health and substance misuse services in the city); officers of NHS Brighton & Hove (the commissioners of citywide mental health and substance misuse services); officers of Brighton & Hove City Council (including those responsible for managing the council's housing strategy); officers of the Children & Young People's Trust; representatives of the main supported housing providers in the city; representatives of the non-statutory services operating in the fields of mental health and substance misuse; and the families and carers of people with a Dual Diagnosis.
- 4.10 The Panel also welcomed evidence in writing and received one written submission. In addition, members visited the West Pier Project, a supported housing scheme managed by Brighton & Hove City Council. The West Pier Project provides some accommodation for people with a Dual Diagnosis.

4.11 The final report made recommendations on a number of topics including Supported Housing, Women's Services, Children and Young People, Integrated Working and Care Plans, Funding, Treatment and Support. The report was endorsed by the OSC in April and was reported to Cabinet in July.

4.12 Climate Change Adaptation (OSC)

Councillors Vicky Wakefield-Jarrett, Gill Mitchell, Denise Cobb and Professor Gordon MacKerron.

- 4.13 At its meeting on the 10th March the Overview and Scrutiny Commission resolved to establish a panel to investigate 'the work that needs to be done to make good progress in planning for a changing local climate'.
- 4.14 The panel will be looking to gain an understanding of the climate change threats and opportunities facing the City and the impact these will have, how prepared the Council and its partners are in planning for the impacts and seek to identify any gaps that need to be addressed.
- 4.15 The Panel membership includes Professor Gordon MacKerron Director of the Sussex Energy Group, SPRU (Science and Technology Policy Research), University of Sussex.
- 4.16 The panel will be looking to report in the autumn.

4.17 Street Access Issues

Councillors David Watkins, Sven Rufus, Brian Pidgeon, Pat Hawks, Jayne Bennett.

4.18 The panel is looking at street access in its widest sense including traders' items, street furniture and pavements obstructions. It will seek evidence from local business groups, interest groups such as the RNIB and local residents.

4.19 Dignity at Work

Councillors Gill Mitchell (Chairman), Paul Elgood, Brian Pidgeon, Vicky Wakefield-Jarret.

4.20 At its meeting on the 8th December the OSC agreed 'That a 4-Member scrutiny panel be established to make recommendations regarding the Draft Dignity and Respect at Work Policy'. This addresses bullying and harassment policies within the Council.

4.21 The Panel has decided to reconvene in the autumn once the draft Dignity at Work Strategy has been produced to feed comments and ideas into the policy development process.

4.22 Adult Social Care and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee (ASCHOSC)

- 4.23 ASCHOSC has looked at a large number of issues over the course of the year such as re-ablement, safeguarding, the Housing Strategy, budget issues and the Single Homeless Strategy.
- 4.24 ASCHOSC has pioneered short Member development sessions at the start of each meeting. These have focused on key new developments within the relevant services and initiatives that Members should be aware of.
- 4.25 The May meeting of the ASCHOSC was an innovative session looking at the issue of the Valuing People Now agenda. A range of service users, carers and providers presented information to Committee in a setting that allowed for more detailed but less formal questioning. This will feed into discussion on the Learning and Development Partnership Board Action Plan at September's Committee meeting.
- 4.26 The Students in the Community Scrutiny Panel established by ASCHOSC was the first Panel to report under the new constitutional arrangements.

4.27 Students in the Community

Councillors Anne Meadows (Chairman), Georgia Wrighton, and Tony Janio.

- 4.28 The Adult Social Care and Housing Committee established an ad hoc panel to look at the subject of student impact on residential neighbourhoods. This was identified as a particular need through the Committee's consideration of work on the draft housing strategy, and the fact that there was not a specific student housing strand.
- 4.29 The panel met four times in public, with the first meeting purely for members of the public and students to express their views. This proved valuable as it ensured that panel members were aware of the wide range of student impact issues from the outset. In addition, the panel received 42 individual letters and emails from residents, and a representation from David Lepper MP on behalf of 87 residents from the Elm Grove area of Brighton

- 4.30 The panel had a number of invited expert witnesses to each of the subsequent three meetings, and heard from a total of twenty expert witnesses, including the UK's leading expert on student impact, local police, CityClean, Environmental Health, planning, housing strategy, landlords & both universities (who were represented at senior management levels.)
- 4.31 The panel also benefited from positive extensive press coverage; stories appeared in the Argus after each meeting, which helped to remind the public that the panel was taking place, and how to contact the panel with comments. In addition, student impact was the subject of a 'Friday Inquisition' on the Argus's website, where members of the public emailed in their questions about student housing and Councillor Meadows and representatives from both universities publicly responded to the questions.
- 4.32 The panel's report was endorsed by the ASCHOSC in March and has been reported to Cabinet.

4.33 Dementia Strategy (Select Committee)

Councillors Averil Older, Dawn Barnett, Pat Hawks and Georgia Wrighton and Mr Robert Brown LInK co-optee.

- 4.34 Following a scoping report setting out a number of options for panel topics the ASCHOSC decided to look at the issue of Dementia, and the development of a Dementia Strategy for the City.
- 4.35 Living well with dementia, the national strategy was launched by the Government in February this year. This is the first ever strategy covering Dementia to be published so is new ground nationally and for the authority.
- 4.36 Due to the cross-cutting nature of the issue and the size of the policy area it was agreed by the OSC that a Select Committee should be established. This allows for a longer and more in-depth investigation into the issue. The first scoping meeting was held in May.

4.37 Environment and Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee (ECSOSC)

4.38 ECSOSC has looked at a range of issues such as parking, bus service provision, street-lighting, air quality and the Local Transport Plan. ECSOSC held a workshop on the London Road Supplementary Planning Document allowing Councillors to contribute their thoughts to the development of the initiative.

- 4.39 ECSOSC has experienced good engagement when necessary from external partners, for example EDF Energy were invited to attend the Committee to discuss street lighting.
- 4.40 ECSOSC has held one meeting to consider whether or not to refer a decision on the Partial Review of the Southeast Plan: Meeting the needs of Gypsies and Travellers back to Cabinet. Following debate it was decided not to refer the decision back to Cabinet for reconsideration.
- 4.41 ECSOSC has to balance its environmental and community safety priorities, the ad hoc panel established has focused on a community safety issue.
- **4.42 Older People and Community Safety (ECSOSC)** Councillors Mo Marsh (Chairman) Amy Kennedy, David Smart and David Watkins and Mr John Eyles, a co-optee from the Older People's Council.
- 4.43 Established following Age Concern raising the matter at the Community Safety Forum. The Panel is investigating concerns that older people may have about safety and perception of safety in the community and then make recommendations on practical measures that can be taken to help older people feel safer.
- 4.44 The panel is looking to report in the autumn with emerging themes from the meetings to date being interagency coordination, communication with vulnerable people, elder abuse and domestic violence.

4.45 Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CYPOSC)

- 4.46 CYPOSC has looked at issues such as the Traveller Information Service, exclusion issues, Children Centres as well as receiving regular Ofsted Reports and updates on the Falmer Academy.
- 4.47 CYPOSC has excellent engagement with stakeholders; two members of the Brighton and Hove Youth Council have been co-opted onto the Committee. Co-optees have also enabled the Committee to receive feedback direct from service users, such as the Parent Carers Council on Children with Additional Needs.
- **4.48** Reducing alcohol related harm to children and young people Councillors Ann Norman (Chairman), Juliette McCaffery, Ben Duncan.

- 4.49 The panel was established to examine the costs, social and economic outcomes and reasons for the increasing levels of alcohol related harm suffered by children and young people in Brighton and Hove.
- 4.50 It is also examining the impact of the Licensing Act 2003 on the availability to and consumption of alcohol by those aged under 18.
- 4.51 The Panel gathered evidence from Sussex Police, Council Officers, the Primary Care Trust, NHS, Head Teacher, Trading Standards and Licensing and Licensed Retailers.
- 4.52 The Panel reported to the June meeting of CYPOSC and will report to Cabinet in September.

4.53 Culture, Tourism and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CTEOSC)

- 4.54 The CTEOSC has held a number of scrutiny workshops which have allowed Members to have early input, pre-decision input into the development of the Libraries Plan, the Museum Strategy and the Cultural Strategy.
- 4.55 The Committee has also looked at the progress of a number of the Council's key major projects, reviewed the provision of sport facilities in the City and support to small businesses.
- **4.56 Environmental Industries (Culture, Tourism and Enterprise OSC)** Councillors Bill Randall (Chairman), Melanie Davis, Steve Harmer-Strange.
- 4.57 The formal title of the inquiry is "*Environmental Industries Enquiry Capturing the potential and economic benefits for Brighton & Hove*" it is looking at the growth potential of environmental industries in Brighton & Hove.
- 4.58 It is considering the economic, environmental and employment benefits to the city and what actions should be prioritised by the Council and its key partners to support the high growth potential existing in the sector, diversifications of others into the sectors work, and how to attract inward investors.
- 4.59 The panel has taken evidence and enjoyed constructive and lively debate, hearing from a number of expert witnesses including:
 - Pooran Desai, Sustainability director of BioRegional Quintain Ltd
 - o David Porter, Environmental Enterprise Manager, Envirobusiness

- Jim Christy, Director, East Sussex Enterprise Hub
- Jim Watson, Director of the Sussex Energy Group at Sussex University
- o Paul Dickinson, CEO, Carbon Disclosure Project
- o Jae Mather, Director of Sustainability, Carbon Free Group
- 4.60 The panel will report in the autumn.

4.61 Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)

- 4.62 HOSC enjoys an excellent relationship with health service providers in the city as can be seen in the engagement at meetings from organisations such as the PCT. This has allowed HOSC to perform a useful function in allowing members of the public, and as well as Councillors, to question the PCT in a public forum.
- 4.63 HOSC has also undertaken some good work looking at how the Sussex Orthopaedic Treatment Centre is performing and has worked jointly with a number of other local authorities of specific issues.
- 4.64 HOSC has also scrutinised Mental Health: personalisation of care agenda, eye testing for over 60s, dentistry and maternity services. HOSC has a co-opted LInK member and a representative from the Older Peoples Council.

4.65 GP Led Health Centre (HOSC)

Councillors Trevor Alford (Chair), Jason Kitkat, Kevin Allen

4.66 The panel investigated the process undertaken in awarding the contract for the GP-led health centre in the City. This was a short, sharp investigation that will report shortly.

5. FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

5.1 The newly constituted O&S function has improved over the course of the first year and it will continue to develop as new powers are implemented and ways of working refined. Key to this will be powers from the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (LGPIHA 2007). This has strengthened the role of O&S in two main ways relevant to the Council:

- Firstly it increases the remit and power of O&S Committees to request information and evidence from, and make recommendations to, partner organisations.¹
- Secondly the introduction of the Councillor Call for Action has meant O&S can now support Members in their ward duties.
- 5.2 The opportunity exists following LGPIHA 2007 to move the O&S function away from being predominantly inward looking to becoming a tool that looks at issues as they affect the City, rather than as the council delivers services. Put another way overview and scrutiny needs to be place, not just service, based.
- 5.3 In essence Council Overview and Scrutiny Committees will be able to:
 - Scrutinise Local Area Agreement targets (and other LSP targets)
 - Require information from partner organisations involved in delivering LAA targets
 - Require partners to 'have regard to' scrutiny recommendations
 - There is a general expectation to cooperate with overview and scrutiny
- 5.4 Coordination of O&S work programmes with the LSP should result in O&S being able to undertake forward looking policy development work that meets both Council and LSP priorities, or if a problem area is identified a scrutiny review of the issue.
- 5.5 Links between each of the O&S Committees and the LSP and its themed groups should be developed over the course of the coming year.
- 5.6 It is also necessary to ensure that areas of work identified as priorities within O&S are not already being looked at by partners, thereby avoiding duplication of effort. This will involve building relationships and shared understanding of the role of O&S with the individual partners and partnerships.
- 5.7 The focus of O&S and partners should be on looking at issues of mutual concern, rather than O&S seeking to focus its efforts on the performance of organisations.

Councillor Call for Action

5.8 Section 119 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 introduced CCfA powers. The central element of CCfA is that

¹ Sections 121 and 122 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 establish new powers for overview and scrutiny in relation to partner organisations.

any Councillor can have an issue of concern put on the agenda of the relevant O&S Committee. CCfA is however intended to be the option of last resort when all other avenues of resolution have been pursued.

- 5.9 CCfA is aimed at empowering Councillors to resolve issues and problems on behalf of their residents. Ultimately CCfA is a mechanism that allows Councillors to seek resolution of issues they have struggled to solve elsewhere. Whilst not guaranteeing a solution it provides an opportunity for debate and discussion.
- 5.10 The Council's constitution (Part 6.1, paragraph 13.2) already allowed for any Member of an O&S Committee to place an item on the agenda of any O&S Committee. The Committee must then decide whether it wishes to pursue the item suggested. It is also current working practice that issues raised by Councillors not on Overview and Scrutiny Committees are raised at Committee pre-meets and usually then added to Committee agendas.
- 5.11 A CCfA power also exists in the Police & Justice Act 2006, enabling councillors to raise crime and disorder issues, particularly those relating to anti-social behaviour or the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances. The ECCOSC has been designated as the Crime and Disorder Committee for the purposes of the Act. However previously agreed protocols recognise the key role the Community Safety Forum plays in this regard.

Profile of Overview and Scrutiny

- 5.12 The profile of O&S needs to be raised during 2009/10 internally within the Council, with partners and with residents. This will allow O&S to play a more active role in the democratic process, enabling residents to engage with Committees and Members to use the O&S processes to resolve important issues. O&S has an important role to play in supporting Councillors in all aspects of their work.
- 5.14 Public participation in scrutiny panels has been good where issues of local consequence and interest have been reviewed. Increased public participation in the democratic process should be an aim in itself; it will however also allow for more direct service user feedback and improved services.

6. CONSULTATION

6.1 Consultation has taken place with the Chairmen of Overview and Scrutiny Committees during 2008/9.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

7.1 To follow.

Legal Implications:

7.2 To follow.

Equalities Implications:

7.3 Equality issues form an important part of the work of a number of ad hoc panels. The OSC has a remit to look at equality issues and receives six monthly updates from the City Inclusion Partnership.

Sustainability Implications:

7.4 Sustainability falls within the remit of the OSC and a panel has been established to investigate Adaptation to Climate Change.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

7.5 ECSOSC is the Council's designated Crime and Disorder Committee. Liaison between the

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

7.6 To follow.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

7.7 To follow.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1) O&S Committee Remit and 2008/2009 Membership

Documents in Members' Rooms: None

Background Documents:

None

Appendix 1 – Overview and Scrutiny Committee Membership and Terms of Reference.

Overview and Scrutiny Commission

The OSC membership for 2008/9 was Cllr Mitchell (Chair), Cllr Pidgeon (Vice-Chair), Cllr Meadows, Cllr Randall, Cllr Wakefield-Jarrett, Cllr Elgood, Cllr Alford, Cllr Older, Cllr Cobb, Cllr J. Bennett. Cllr Morgan is a non-voting cooptee on the OSC. The membership of the OSC includes the Chairman of each of the other O&S Committees; this allows it to take a strategic view across all Committees.

To OSC co-ordinates the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. It reviews and scrutinises all matters relating to central and support services, in particular;-

- Finance (including the annual budget)
- Property
- ICT
- Customer Services
- Corporate Procurement
- Legal and Democratic Services
- Policy
- Communications
- Human Resources
- Improvement & Organisational Development
- Joint working and partnership arrangements
- Corporate performance
- Equalities
- Sustainability

Culture, Tourism and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Membership of CTEOSC for 2008/9 was Cllr Bill Randall, Cllr Mel Davis, Cllr Pat Drake, Cllr Pat Hawkes, Cllr Steve Harmer-Strange, Cllr Amy Kennedy, Cllr Craig Turton, Cllr Carol Theobold.

CTEOSC has a remit to perform the overview and scrutiny function in relation to all matters Enterprise and Employment and in particular:-

- Major Projects
- Economic Regeneration
- Culture, Arts and Heritage
- Tourism & Marketing

- Libraries and Museums
- Events
- Leisure, Sports and Recreation

Environment and Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The ECSOSC membership for 2008/9 was Cllr Warren Morgan (Chair), Cllr Tony Janio (Vice-Chair), Cllr Ian Davey, Cllr Sven Rufus, Cllr Mel Davis, Cllr Pat Drake, Cllr David Smart and Cllr Geoffrey Wells.

ECSOSC To perform the Overview and Scrutiny function in relation to all matters, Executive decisions and service provision connecting to the Environment function and in particular:-

- Community Safety (including discharging those statutory responsibilities set out in s19 Police and Justice Act 2006)
- Parks and Green Spaces
- Travellers and Gypsies
- Highways Management
- Traffic Management and Transport
- Parking
- Waste
- Conservation & Design
- Coast Protection
- Seafront
- Environmental Health
- Building Control
- Trading Standards
- Planning and Licensing Policy

Adult Social Care and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The ASCHOSC membership for 2008/9 was Cllr Anne Meadows (Chair), Cllr Georgia Wrighton (Vice-Chair), Cllr Pat Hawkes, Cllr Dawn Barnett, Cllr Sven Rufus, Cllr Brian Pidgeon, Cllr Geoffrey Wells, Cllr Tony Janio.

ASCHOSC looks at matters relating to Adult Social Services and matters connected to the Housing function and in particular:-

- The Council's housing strategy
- Homelessness and the allocation of housing
- Private sector housing, including taking action to remedy overcrowding, disrepair, unfitness and statutory nuisances; to promote fire safety in private sector housing and the Council's functions in relation to houses in multiple occupation Tenancy

relations and the provision of housing advice

- Housing loans and grants
- Housing Landlord Functions
- Supporting People

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

CYPOSC membership for 2008/9 was Cllr Averil Older (Chairman), Cllr Juliette McCaffery (Vice-Chair), Cllr Ben Duncan, Cllr Vicky Wakefield-Jarrett, Cllr Kevin Allen, Cllr Lynda Hyde, Cllr Ann Norman, Cllr David Smart.

CYPOSC scrutinises matters relating to the Children and Young People Cabinet function including:-

- the provision, planning and management of children's social services
- the provision, planning and management of education
- the health of the authority's children and young people, including contribution to the development of policy and service to improve health and reduce health inequalities, all in accordance with the principles of section 7 of the Health & Social Care Act 2001, but provided that matters relating to general health strategies and services not specifically for children and young people shall be the function of the Council's Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee
- the development of integrated children's services under the Children and Young People's Trust
- all of the functions of the Council as an education authority under the Education Acts, School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and all other relevant legislation in force from time to time
- the development of the Council's Children and Young People's Plan

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Membership of HOSC for 2008/9 was Cllr Denise Cobb (Chairman), Cllr Kevin Allen, (Vice Chair), Cllr Trevor Alford, Cllr Dawn Barnett, Cllr Steve Harmer-Strange, and Cllr Jason Kitkat, Cllr Sven Rufus and Cllr David Smart.

HOSC performs the Overview and Scrutiny function in relation to all matters, to the Health elements of the Adult Social Care and Health function and in particular:-

- To scrutinise matters relating to the health of the Authority's population and contribute to the development of policy and service to improve health and reduce health inequalities
- To undertake all the statutory functions of the scrutiny committee in accordance with Section 7 and Regulations under that section, of the Health and Social Care Act 2001, relating to reviewing and scrutinising health service matters
- To review and scrutinise the impact of the Authority's own services and of key partnerships on the health of its population
- To encourage the Council as a whole and its executive committees and sub-committees and through the Overview and Scrutiny Organisation Committee to take into account the implications of their policies and activities on health and health inequalities
- To make reports and recommendations to the National Health Service, the Council, the executive committees and sub-committees and the Overview and Scrutiny Organisation Committee, and to other relevant bodies and individuals
- · To monitor and review the outcomes of its recommendations
- In all of the above, to liaise with other bodies that represent patients' views in order to seek and take account of the views of the local populations