

# South Lanarkshire Council

## Local Scrutiny Plan 2018/19



April 2018

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### Introduction

1. This local scrutiny plan (LSP) sets out any scrutiny risks identified by the local area network (LAN), proposed scrutiny responses and expected scrutiny activity for South Lanarkshire Council during the financial year 2018/19.
2. The scrutiny risks and responses are based on a shared risk assessment undertaken by the LAN, comprising representatives of all scrutiny bodies which engage with the Council:
  - Audit Scotland
  - Care Inspectorate
  - Education Scotland
  - Scottish Housing Regulator
3. The shared risk assessment process draws on a range of evidence with the aim of determining a proportionate programme of scrutiny activity for the Council and South Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board.
4. Expected scrutiny activity across all councils in Scotland informs the National Scrutiny Plan for 2018/19, which is available on the Audit Scotland [website](#).

### Scrutiny risks

5. The LAN's risk assessment of the council did not identify any areas where specific scrutiny was required, other than that which is nationally directed or part of a planned programme of work.

### Scrutiny activity

#### Audit Scotland

6. In June 2016 the Accounts Commission agreed a revised approach to auditing Best Value. Best Value will be assessed over the five year audit appointment, as part of the annual audit work. In addition, a Best Value Assurance Report (BVAR) for each council will be considered by the Accounts Commission at least once in this five year period. The current BVAR programme includes publication of a report for South Lanarkshire Council in 2019. The scope and timing of the work to be carried out, as part of the 2018/19 audit, will be discussed with the Council in due course. In the meantime, Best Value audit work planned for 2017/18 will focus on the council's arrangements for

demonstrating Best Value in “Performance, Outcomes and Improvement”, and will be reported in the Annual Audit Report.

7. Audit Scotland also plans to undertake centrally directed performance audit work in a number of areas covering local government during 2018/19, including Health and social care integration part 2 and Children and young people’s mental health services. Audit Scotland will engage with individual councils selected for site work in due course. Information on the future programme of audit work is available on the Audit Scotland website: <http://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk>.
8. No additional risk based scrutiny is planned.

### **Care Inspectorate**

9. During 2018/19 the Care Inspectorate intends to visit three health and social care partnerships to report on progress towards a more collaborative culture and integrated approach to planning and delivering services.
10. Scottish ministers have asked the Care Inspectorate to lead another programme of joint inspections of services for children and young people. The Care Inspectorate intends to carry out five joint inspections during 2018/19.
11. A thematic review of self-directed support will be carried out during 2018/19. Inspections will be undertaken in a number of areas with the aim of identifying factors which support effective delivery of self-directed support and any barriers to implementation.
12. The Care Inspectorate has not identified any specific risk based scrutiny work in addition to the nationally directed or continuing work programmes and general inspection.

### **Education Scotland**

13. South Lanarkshire Council received support funding for 20 schools from the Scottish Attainment Challenge. Education Scotland will continue to liaise with schools as appropriate.
14. Education Scotland will undertake a strategic inspection of community learning and development within South Lanarkshire during 2018/19.
15. There will be no other additional scrutiny in 2018/19, other than that which is nationally directed or part of ongoing work programmes, including general inspection and support activity that Education Scotland provides to the council.

### **Scottish Housing Regulator**

16. To assess the risk to social landlord services, the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) has reviewed and compared the performance of all Scottish social landlords to identify the weakest performing landlords.

17. It found that the council has weaknesses in relation to: factored owners satisfaction with the services they receive; SHQS abeyances and failures by one criteria; and time to complete non emergency repairs. In relation to the council's homelessness service, it identified risks in relation to: provision of temporary accommodation; length of time in temporary accommodation; the number of households placed in B&Bs; and the percentage of RSL lets to homeless households.
18. The council have advised that they taken a number of steps to address the low levels of factored owners' satisfaction identified in the 2015/16 survey and plan to undertake a follow up survey during 2018/19 to establish the extent to which these have successfully addressed factored owners concerns.
19. SHR will monitor the council's progress in addressing the housing and homelessness service weaknesses identified in this plan. It will review the council's six monthly performance management reports and meet council officials as necessary.
20. The Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) may carry out thematic inquiries during 2018/19 or it may carry out survey or on-site work to follow up on published thematic reports. The SHR will also review the Scottish Social Housing Charter data submitted by landlords and carry out data accuracy visits during the second quarter of 2018/19. Where councils are to be involved in a thematic inquiry, any follow-up work to a published thematic inquiry, or a data accuracy visit, the SHR will confirm this directly with the council and the LAN lead.

### **General**

21. For some scrutiny activity in 2018/19, scrutiny bodies are still to determine their work programmes and which specific council areas will be covered. Where a council is to be involved, the relevant scrutiny body will confirm this with the council and the appropriate LAN lead.
22. 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. The outcomes of this work will help to inform future assessment of scrutiny risk.

## Appendix 1: Scrutiny plan

Scrutiny body	Scrutiny activity	Date
Audit Scotland	Best Value Assurance Report (BVAR)	Spring 2019
	Audit Scotland plans to undertake performance audit work on Health and social care integration and Children and young people's mental health services.	Dates to be determined
Care Inspectorate	Joint inspections of service for adults.	Timing of inspections still to be determined.
	Joint inspections of service for children and young people.	Timing of inspections still to be determined.
	Thematic review of self-directed support.	Timing of review still to be determined.
Education Scotland	Education Scotland will undertake a strategic inspection of community learning and development.	Dates to be determined.
Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR)	The Scottish Housing Regulator will monitor the council's progress in addressing the housing and homelessness service weaknesses identified in this plan. It will review the council's six monthly performance management reports and meet council officials as necessary.	Six monthly
	The Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) may carry out thematic inquiries during 2018/19 or it may carry out survey or on-site work to follow up on published thematic reports. The SHR will also review the Scottish Social Housing Charter data submitted by landlords and carry out data accuracy visits during the second quarter of 2018/19. Where councils are to be involved in a thematic inquiry, any follow-up work to a published thematic inquiry, or a data accuracy visit, the SHR will confirm this directly with the council and the LAN lead.	Quarter 2 2018/19


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### A summary of local government strategic scrutiny activity

This report is available in PDF and RTF formats,  
along with a podcast summary at:

[www.audit-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk) 

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