

Scrutiny in practice – a development session

Held – Tuesday 3rd March 2015

Evaluation of the course

12 Councillors and 1 co-opted member attended the training session. The session was provided by Tim Young, Scrutiny & Policy Advisor, John Williams, Head of Legal & Democratic Services and Fiona Abbott, Scrutiny Officer also attended.

We received 9 completed evaluation response forms.

Q1 Did the course meet its stated objectives?

| Fully met | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Not at all |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|------------|
| <i>Responses to this Question:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Nice well presented | | | | | | | |
| X | 3 | 5 | 1 | X | X | X | X |

Q2 Has your knowledge of the subject or your skills improved as a result of the training?

| Much improved | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Not changed |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------------|
| <i>Responses to this Question:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Yes, good knowledge on questions | | | | | | | |
| X | 3 | 4 | 2 | X | X | X | X |

Q3 Will you be able to use the knowledge/skills gained?

| Yes Fully | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Not at all |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|------------|
| <i>Responses to this Question:</i> | | | | | | | |
| X | 5 | 3 | 1 | X | X | X | X |

Q4A Has this course met your needs?

| Yes Fully | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Not at all |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------------|
| <i>Responses to this Question:</i> | | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has made me think more about the subject • Given confidence & aware of structure | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 | X | X | X | X |

Q4B Do you need any further support in this area?

| | | | |
|-----|---|----|---|
| Yes | 4 | No | 4 |
|-----|---|----|---|

Comments:

- Need for more examples of bad practice / good practice
- Commissioning & contracting out etc.

Q5 How well did the trainer deliver the course in a way that was useful to your learning?

| Very useful | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Not at all |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|------------|
| <i>Responses to this Question:</i> | | | | | | | |
| X | 5 | 3 | 1 | X | X | X | X |

Q6 Did the venue/environment aid your learning?

| Very | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Not at all |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|------------|
| <i>Responses to this Question:</i> | | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighting too strong • Lighting was a bit bright | | | | | | | |
| X | 3 | 4 | 1 | X | 1 | X | X |

Q7 How effective was the course administration?

| Very effective | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Not effective |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------|
| <i>Responses to this Question:</i> | | | | | | | |
| X | 6 | 3 | X | X | X | X | X |

Q8 What will you do differently as a result of attending this course?

Comments:

- I will use the information to enable more effective questions to achieve a positive outcome
- Consider questions to be asked
- Look in depth at the subject
- Question differently / more thoroughly at scrutiny
- Yes
- Review questioning techniques
- Try and read all the reports
- Questioning at scrutiny
- Scrutiny slides / handouts

Q9 What additional comments would you like to make about the course overall?

Comments:

- Worthwhile
- Well organised slides. Good delivery
- Perhaps too much in one session
- (a) Excellent images on the slides – great that they are in colour.
(b) there seems to be an assumption that logic is the dominant thought process – as an Cartesian thinker, I am 25% of the population! Logical patterns.....

6th March 2015

Information – Tim Young

Tim Young has worked as an independent scrutiny and policy consultant since 2006, carrying out assignments for a wide range of local authorities and other bodies. In doing so, he draws particularly on his experience as former Head of Scrutiny at the London Borough of Camden, which earned a national reputation as a leading edge authority for Overview and Scrutiny, and on extensive networks that he has built up during sixteen years in local government.

Tim has worked extensively with Members across the political spectrum and with officers from different types of authority, across the country. He also has extensive experience of the voluntary sector through working in a policy and research capacity for regional and national organisations. He holds postgraduate research degrees from the University of Sussex and is also an Associate of the Centre for Public Scrutiny and the Local Government Information Unit. Current interests include supporting the development of Police and Crime Panels and working with overview and scrutiny committees and health and wellbeing boards on the implementation of the new health arrangements under the Health & Social Care Act.

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