

Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on 13 May 2011

Electoral Division affected: None

Establishment of a Standing Joint Lancashire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

A Joint Lancashire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is proposed. Appendix 'A' sets out the suggested terms of reference.

Recommendation

That the committee approve the establishment of the Joint Lancashire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Background and Advice

In December 2010, a proposal was made at a meeting of Lancashire Leaders that a standing joint committee should be established between Lancashire County Council, Blackburn with Darwen Council and Blackpool Council to consider changes in the health service affecting all three areas.

Such a body is required under the Directions to Local Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Health Scrutiny Functions) issued by the Secretary of State in 2003:

"Where a local NHS body consults more than one overview and scrutiny committee pursuant to regulation 4 of the Regulations on any proposal it has under consideration for substantial development of the health service or a substantial variation in the provision of such service, the local authorities of those overview and scrutiny committees shall appoint a joint overview and scrutiny committee for the purposes of the consultation"

Following a series of meetings of officers and with member input, Terms of Reference have been developed, attached as Appendix 'A'.

Key points to note are:

- The joint committee will only consider NHS developments that affect all three authorities. It is a statutory requirement upon local authorities that this is the case.
- Provision is also made to involve Cumbria where any such proposals affect all three Lancashire authorities and Cumbria
- The joint committee will only meet when necessary. It in no sense directs or affects the work of the individual Overview and Scrutiny committees
- Where all authorities agree, the joint committee will have the power to refer appropriate (ie affecting all three authorities) NHS proposals to the secretary of state for independent review. However, it would not be able to stop individual committees making referrals or opposing referrals individually.
- The joint committee exists only to consider issues of substantial development or substantial variation. It does not exist to consider public health, general health service issue or social care matters

Clerking and support arrangements for the joint committee are subject to discussion, as are chairing arrangements for the first year.

Nominations for membership from the county council will be politically balanced meaning that three Conservative members and one Labour member would be appointed on nomination by their Group.

A similar report to this will be presented to the Health Committee on 17 May, requesting that committee to note the proposals and agree mechanisms for minutes of the Joint Committee meetings to be provided to all committee members.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

There is a legal requirement to establish a joint health overview and scrutiny committee in certain circumstances as outlined in the report.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate - N/A