

**Health Scrutiny Committee**  
Meeting to be held on 22 April 2014

Electoral Divisions affected: All
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**Report of the NHS Health Check Task Group**  
(Appendix A refers)

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**Executive Summary**

Attached at Appendix A is the final report of the NHS Health Check Task Group. Councillor Mick Titherington, Chair of the Task Group and County Councillor Steve Holgate, Deputy Chair of the Task Group, will present the report to the Committee.

**Recommendation**

The Committee is asked to:

- i. Support the recommendations of the Task Group, as set out in the report at Appendix A;
- ii. Consider the appropriate mechanism for reviewing the responses to the Task Group's recommendations.

**Background and Advice**

In summer 2013, the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CFPS) was commissioned by NHS England to work with six scrutiny development areas to pilot a review on how the NHS Health Check Scheme was working at a local level. The pilot was to use the Return on Investment Model designed by the Centre for Public Scrutiny.

Following expressions of interest Lancashire County Council and South Ribble Borough Council's Scrutiny Committees were invited to carry out a joint review as part of the pilot.

A joint Scrutiny Task Group was created with four councillors from each Scrutiny Committee. The Centre for Public Scrutiny appointed an Expert Advisor to work with the Joint task Group.

## **Membership of the Task Group**

The task group was made up of the following County Councillors and South Ribble Borough Councillors:

- Cllr Mick Titherington (Chair)
- CC Steve Holgate (Deputy Chair)
- CC Margaret Brindle
- CC Michael Green
- Cllr Ken Jones
- CC Sue Prynn
- Cllr Frances Walker
- Cllr Linda Woollard

## **Scope of the Scrutiny exercise**

The agreed aims and objectives of the review were:

- To enable the County and District Councils to work together and develop joint working methodology from which 2-tier authorities in particular can learn.
- To deliver a scrutiny review which focuses on good practice in the use of Health Checks and captures both local and general learning as set out in the NHS Health Check briefing.
- To use and develop the methodology for calculating the 'rate of return' on scrutiny activity, with reference to the Centre for Public Scrutiny model to measure the return on investment – 'Tipping the Scales!' from targeting groups at greater risk, instead of 20% random targeting.
- To link with the County and District Councils corporate plans

NHS Health Check is a national prevention programme to identify people at 'risk' of developing heart disease, stroke, diabetes, kidney disease or vascular dementia. The term that covers all these conditions is 'vascular disease'.

Everyone between the ages of 40 and 74 in England (almost 15 million people) who has not been diagnosed with vascular disease or already being managed for certain risk factors should be offered an NHS Health Check once every five years to assess their risk.

The risk assessment involves a face to face meeting with a trained person such as a nurse, public health worker or pharmacist and uses questions about family health history and checks such as weight, blood pressure and cholesterol.

At the present time there is a legal requirement for councils with responsibility for public health to commission NHS Health Checks but there is no legal requirement for GP surgeries to provide them.

The report of the task group's investigation together with their conclusions and recommendations is attached as Appendix A.

**Consultations**

N/A.

**Implications:**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

**Risk management**

This report has no significant risk implications.

**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.