Request for new task group

Date	13.11.15		Suggested by	CC Steve Holgate

Title		Understanding the shortage of nurses

Explain briefly what this task group is about	At the HSC on 13 October the Committee discussed the fact that the hospital trusts within Lancashire struggled to recruit adequate numbers of nurses. It was acknowledged that this was a national picture but members indicated that they did not fully understand all the reasons behind the situation. It was agreed that it would be beneficial if members knew the underlying reasons for the staffing shortage so they could consider how they might be able to influence policy makers in the future.

Has anyone else done any work on this topic recently?	There are examples of independent research looking into the issue by various organisations nationally but not aware of any work done specifically in Lancashire.

Why does there need to be a task group review of this?	To obtain a better understand of which policies and other factors affect the number of available nurses within the market

What are the key objectives of this task group?	To understand and learn from that knowledge To consider how to influence policy makers

If the task group is successful, what difference will scrutiny have made?	Clarified the national and local situation Be in a position to influence

What will be the measure of success?	Members being better informed which will improve their ability to effectively challenge future decisions of local NHS organisations

How will this contribute to corporate priorities?	Taken from new draft corporate strategy: • To live a healthy live • To have employment that provides an income that allows full participation in society.
Who will the task group need to get evidence from?	• Royal College of Nursing • Universities • Department of Health • Kings Fund • Local Trusts • Trade Unions • Clinical Commissioning Groups • NHS England • Healthwatch
What are the main issues that need to be covered?	• Statistical information on past and present number of nurses • Pay structures • Barriers to training • Government policies
Does this task group need to be done by a certain time? Please explain why	No
Committee	Health Scrutiny Committee