

Wolverhampton City Council

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

Date	23 MAY 2013
Originating Service Group(s)	OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Contact Officer(s)/ Telephone Number(s)	EARL PIGGOTT-SMITH 55(1251)
Title/Subject Matter	<u>HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL/ DEVELOPMENT OF THE PANEL WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2013/14</u>

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to briefly outline the remit of the Health Scrutiny Panel and to suggest a process for identifying topics to be included in the 2013/14 Work Programme.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Panel to discuss and agree a list of possible topics for the 2013/14 scrutiny work programme.

3.0 Background Information – Health Scrutiny Panel

3.1 The Health Scrutiny Panel was established in accordance with the **Health and Social Care Act 2001** and has a wide remit to investigate issues linked to the planning, provision and operation of health services in the area of the local authority. The Department of Health guidance recommends that best use of these powers will depend on committees scrutinising health issues, systems or economy, not just services provided, commissioned or managed by the NHS. The work of the Panel should also include reviewing the role of the local authority in contributing to improved health and wellbeing outcomes for local people.

The Panel now has a role in scrutinising the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board following changes introduced by the Health and Wellbeing Act 2012.

3.2 NHS Constitution - see extract below for details

This Constitution establishes the principles and values of the NHS in England. It sets out rights to which patients, public and staff are entitled, and pledges which the NHS is committed to achieve, together with responsibilities which the public, patients and staff owe to one another to ensure that the NHS operates fairly and effectively. All NHS bodies and private and third sector providers supplying NHS services are required by law to take account of this Constitution in their decisions and actions.

Source: NHS Constitution

The Constitution states that Overview and scrutiny committees have the power to scrutinise the operation and planning of local health services. They can require the NHS to provide information and explanations about how the needs of the local population are being addressed.

3.3 The Lead Officers for the Panel include;-

- David Loughton CBE - Chief Executive, The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust
- Viv Griffin - Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing, Wolverhampton City Council
- Ros Jervis - Director of Public Health, Wolverhampton City Council
- Nick Henry - General Manager, West Midlands Ambulance Service
- Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- Dr Helen Hibbs - NHS Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group

4.0 Process for developing the Panel Work Programme 2013-14

4.1 The Panel Work Programme should include issues that both satisfy the remit as detailed in the Council's Constitution and relevant legislation and add value to the work of the Council by supporting the achievement of its key priorities

- Deliver the best possible outcomes for children, young people and their families;
- Make communities safer and stronger;
- Improve the health and well-being of our communities;
- Develop sustainable communities;
- Become an excellent Council.

4.2 The process for developing and agreeing the Panel's Work Programme is as follows:

- **Stage 1** – Panel discussion and prioritisation of topics to be included in the Work Programme.
- **Stage 2** – The Scrutiny Officer to work with the Chair, Vice Chair and Officers to identify further future agenda issues.
- **Stage 3** – A proposed Work Programme for the 2013-14 municipal year to be presented to the Panel meeting on 18 July 2013 for approval.

4.3 Scrutiny methods for investigating issues:

In addition to examining reports and considering presentations at Panel meetings, the Panel may wish to give consideration to the other methods in which they may wish to carry out scrutiny as part of its Work Programme. However, the Panel will need to give detailed consideration to the staff resource implications of arranging extra meetings. There is an agreed process set out in the Council's Constitution for approving the use of the following alternative methods listed below:

- Panel-based Scrutiny Task and Finish Groups – establishing a Panel Sub-Group to look into an issue in-depth which may involve calling upon witnesses and gathering written/oral evidence (similar to the work of Scrutiny Review/Inquiry Groups).
- Themed Panel Meetings – the Panel consider a range of similar issues at a Panel meeting. Where appropriate a Panel report and recommendations would be put forward to the Cabinet.
- Site visits- Members of the Panel may wish to visit a service that they are scrutinising to help them see first hand key issues and feedback their observations and recommendations to Cabinet.
- Joint meetings with other Wolverhampton City Council Scrutiny Panels for cross cutting health related matters

4.4. The annual Scrutiny planning session was held on 15 April 2013, at which Councillors, youth councillors and senior officers discussed a long list of potential topics for major reviews and inquiries. The table below details the list of topics linked to the remit of the panel which the panel may wish to consider including in the scrutiny work programme.

Local Health Issues	Impact of Mid Staffordshire Hospital on local health care providers
	Support for young people
	Nursing care standards
	Mental health
	Urgent care accident and emergency
	Obesity
	New hospital
	GP access
	Alcohol related deaths
	Fuel poverty
	Learning disability
	Health education
	Re-enablement Services
	Used accessibility equipment brokerage
National Health Reform	Public Health changes
	GP Reform changes
	Relationships with statutory bodies
	Health reforms

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 There is a Scrutiny budget to support the investigation of issues highlighted by the Panel through the work programme. There are no financial implications linked to the recommendations in this report. [GE/10052013/A]

6.0 Legal Implications

6.1 Amendments to the Overview and Scrutiny Rules contained in the Council's Constitution are being made to reflect the Panel's role in scrutinising health issues referred to in paragraph 3.1 of this report.[FD/10052013/U]

7.0 Equalities Implications

7.1 The Panel will be asked to consider equality implications as part of all scrutiny investigations and recommendations, especially when identifying who to consult and call to give evidence.