

Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee – 19th June 2012

Report of the Lead Officer to the Committee

Work Programme and Updates - 2012/13

Purpose of Report

1. The Purpose of this report is to:
 - recommend a work programme to the Committee for the 2012/13 Municipal Year;
 - note key considerations for the Committee particularly in the light of the Health and Social Care Act 2012
 - approve continued representation of the Local Involvement Network on the Committee

Background

Health and Social Care Act 2012

2. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 (the Act) amends the scrutiny provisions in the NHS Act 2006. Health Scrutiny is now to be exercised by the authority, rather than by a health overview and scrutiny committee. This provides more flexibility to Local Authorities in how they manage the delivery of their scrutiny responsibilities (i.e not necessarily through a Committee) - this enables creativity but equally risks dilution of independent scrutiny.
3. In Dudley the Health Scrutiny function will continue through the existing Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee providing continuity of work and a combined overview of healthcare, social care and health improvement; which can be seen as particularly helpful amid significant transformational change within the NHS and greater integration of health and social care as per new responsibilities stipulated by the Act.

4. A short guide to the Act and the implications for scrutiny will be available later in the summer but will not be definitive until formal publication of regulations and guidance, envisaged December 2012.

Developing the work plan and Key Considerations

Consultation

5. Effective work programming is the bedrock of an effective scrutiny function, helping lay the foundations for targeted, incisive and timely work on issues of local importance, where scrutiny can add value. Accordingly key health and social care bodies have been consulted at an early stage on the Committee's work plan (attached as an appendix) to ensure its effective development and that is representative of community priorities.

Changes to NHS

6. The transitional period in relation to NHS transformation stipulated by the Act will be a priority for 2012/13. The Committee will need to embed important relationships particularly with Dudley's Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) (which will replace the Primary Care Trust) and Health and Well Being Board (HWBB). This will help to ensure that robust but constructive scrutiny and accountability arrangements are at the heart of the new systems, especially in the governance of CCGs to ensure co-operation with scrutiny members as representatives of local communities.

Joint Issues/arrangements

7. The attached work plan also reflects pressures of decision-making to moving upwards through shared services and a need to join up responses to issues which cut across organisational boundaries. As and when more services are delivered in this way, and substantive decision-taking and policy-making gathers pace there will be a growing impetus to develop timely, proportionate but more formal joint mechanisms with other Authorities.

Health and Well-Being Board

8. Elected members on HWWBs will enhance legitimacy of decisions about health and well-being but they will not provide formal accountability as the HWBB cannot hold itself to account for its achievements.
9. HWBBs will be accountable for the 'realism' of next generation Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs) and the ambition of their Joint

Health and Well-Being Strategy (JHWB) by HASC and others including Local HealthWatch (LHW).

10. Practically, HASC should be engaged in the development of Dudley's HWBB strategy and test out the ambition of the Board in bringing people together to tackle inequalities, with clear expectations of outcomes.

Local Health Watch

11. The new Health and Social Care Act aims to put local clinicians and communities at the heart of the planning and delivery of healthcare, social care and health improvement. This approach aims to strengthen the development of services by empowering people who use services and the public to influence the services they receive and to shape the future pattern of health and social care in their areas.
12. Local Health Watch (LHW) will have a key role in strengthening the voices of people who use services and communities, building on the experience of Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) which will be replaced by LHW April 2013.
13. LHW will have a seat on the HWBB and health scrutiny will have an interest in ensuring that the arrangements for local Healthwatch are effective in the local authority area. In addition, the Committee can work with LHW to bring a 'reality check' to the work of the HWBB and test whether experiences are improving.

Local Involvement Network (LINK)

14. As mentioned above, LHW will replace LINKs in April 2013 as the main patient and public representative body in Dudley.
15. The LINK was co-opted onto the Committee in 2009/10 with the aim of bringing a richness of patient and service user experience to the work of the Committee and raising awareness issues impacting Dudley's communities particularly through its 'enter and view' visits. Accordingly it is advised that Dudley LINK continues to be represented on the Committee for a final year ahead of being superseded by Local Health Watch April 2013.

Annual In-depth Review

16. The Committee is invited to consider a theme for in-depth review on an annual basis. Overseen by a group of members the themed review draws on evidence from both specialist practitioners/expert witnesses along with people who use services in order to arrive at some practical

recommendations for improvements. Progress is subsequently monitored through a co-produced action plan with relevant services in order to promote ownership of suggested improvements for real operational impact.

17. In view of this the Committee may wish to consider the following themes for 2012/13:
 - Adult/Child Obesity - Impact of preventative and partnership work in Dudley in tackling obesity and establishing needs amongst prevalent areas.
 - Review of the provision of Recreational type facilities for older people in residential settings.

Monitoring Previous Issues

18. The work plan incorporates developments and issues identified in previous meetings e.g. Maternity Services which members wanted to remain watchful of. This clearly enables members to continue to engage closely with important matters as they develop in the new municipal year.

Guidance

19. There will inevitably be challenges for the Committee in 2012/13 as it embeds new relationships with key bodies across the new health system. Future publication of DH regulations and guidance supporting legislative changes regarding health and social care will help ensure a mutual understanding of roles which will be crucial for the effective development of the Committee's work.

Flexibility

20. As Members will be aware, issues may arise during the year that will require the attention of the Committee and will need to be included in the Work Programme. Similarly, some issues that have been included may be overtaken by events

Topics for Enhanced Scrutiny

21. In response to concerns about manageable agendas the Chair has requested that future agendas, from September 2012 are developed to provide scrutiny of one topic in relatively more detail to include relevant practitioners/experts and, if appropriate, users of services in order to attain a deeper understanding of operational issues. A maximum of 40 minutes will be given for discussion on these items and the proposed items for this

enhanced scrutiny are marked in bold on the attached work plan for consideration.

Proposals

22. In view of the above the Committee is asked note the impact of the Act and other developments influencing the course of the Committee's work.
23. Approve the implementation of the work plan attached at appendix 1 including topics for enhanced scrutiny as described at paragraph 21.
24. Agree the continuation of a LINK representative on the Committee for 2012/13 as per paragraph 15.
25. Select a topic for in-depth review and appoint a review project board to oversee progress and attend evidence gathering meetings as needed.

Finance

- 26.. There are no significant cost implications arising from this report

Law

27. Section 111 of the Local Government Act, 1972, enables the Council to do anything, which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of its functions.
28. Health and Social Care Act 2012 provides for Local Authorities to review and scrutinise actions of key health and social care bodies in relation to the health and well-being of local communities.

Equality Impact

29. The work of the Committee can be seen as contributing to the equality agenda in its pursuit of improving care for all. This implies a challenge to ensure that services meet the needs of all sectors of the community to make this an even greater reality in Dudley.

¹ This partnership brings together all key health agencies to lead and co-ordinate joint working to improve health and wellbeing and reduce the health inequality in Dudley and feeds into Dudley's Community Strategy.

Recommendation

30. It is recommended that the Committee approve the proposals at paragraph 22-25



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Mohammed Farooq
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Appendix 1

The following work programme for 2012/13 is proposed:-

N.B Items for information marked in brackets - please refer to guidance in agenda packs. Emboldened items are for enhanced scrutiny as described in main report.

Item	Meeting
Committee Review: Caring for Carers Review - Findings and Conclusions Dudley Group of Hospitals: Maternity Services – Managing growing demand Local Authority: Development of Local HealthWatch Local Authority: Equality and Diversity Annual Report Adult Community and Housing Services (information item) Adult Safeguard Board Annual report (information item) Adult Social Care Local Accounts (information item) Quarterly Corporate Performance Report (information item)	July 2012
Local Authority: Public Health – Transition, Vision, Strategy Local Authority: Health and Well-Being Board Strategy Development – Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and achieving the ambition of Joint Health and Well-Being Strategy Clinical Commissioning Group: Authorisation and Commissioning Support Service and Any Qualified Provider Programme Dudley Group of Hospitals: Emergency surgery and elderly care transformation	September 2012
Primary Care Trust : Evaluation of GP Out of Hours Service Black Country Partnership Trust – TCS Quality Improvement Priorities and CQC follow-up (Children’s Services and LD’s) Dudley Group of Hospitals: Integrated living team and rehabilitation Local Authority: Adult Social Care Annual Complaints Report (information item) Quarterly Corporate Performance Report (information item)	November 2012
Local Authority and Dudley Primary Care Trust: Development of Dudley’s Joint Dementia Services Strategy Strategic Health Authority: Improvement of West Midlands Stroke Services – change management process 2012/13 Strategic Health Authority: Birmingham Children’s Hospital - transfer of non-specialist surgery (Specialised Commissioning) Quarterly Corporate Performance Report (information item)	January 2013
NHS Quality Accounts - Progress on Improvement Priorities - All NHS Trusts Quarterly Corporate Performance Report (information item)	February 2013

