

Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Yorkshire and the Humber)

Date: 10 April 2014

Subject: Requests for Information

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Not applicable		
Appendix number: Not applicable		

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to consider the position regarding the provision of information requested under the Local Authority (Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013.

Background

2. The Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Yorkshire and the Humber) – the JHOSC was formally established in March 2011 – initially to consider matters associated with the Safe and Sustainable Review of Children's Congenital Heart Services in England.
3. Since that time, the JHOSC has met on a number of occasions, made a number of information requests and notably agreed two reports related to the Safe and Sustainable Review. However, it should be noted that some information requests remain outstanding.
4. In April 2013, the JHOSC also considered matter associated with the temporary suspension and recommencement of children's heart surgery at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. The JHOSC has considered progress against NHS England's on-going review of services at LTHT since that time. A further update in this regard also forms part of the agenda for this meeting. However, it should be noted that a number of information requests have been made and some information requests remain outstanding.

Main issues and considerations

5. Separately but running concurrently with the work of the JHOSC, the Chair of the Committee has made a number of requests for information under the Freedom of Information legislation. A summary of these requests and associated progress is attached at Appendix 1.
6. In recent correspondence with NHS England it has been confirmed requests for information made to NHS England under the Freedom of Information Act should also be considered under the provisions set out in the Local Authority (Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 – specifically Regulation 26, which relates to the provision of information that maybe reasonably required in order to discharge relevant function.
7. NHS England provided assurance that a written position statement in this regard would be provided by 1 April 2014. However, at the time of writing this report, no such position statement had been received. Nonetheless, NHS England has been advised that a suitable representative is required to attend the meeting to set out NHS England's position regarding the provision of information requested. At the time of writing this report, confirmation of attendance had not been received.

Recommendations

8. That the JHOSC considers the details presented in this report and outlined at the meeting, and identifies any specific actions and/or additional scrutiny.

Background documents¹

9. None used

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.