

## SCRUTINY BOARD (HEALTH)

### INQUIRY INTO GP-LED HEALTH CENTRES/POLYCLINICS

#### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 At its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2008, the Health Scrutiny Board resolved to undertake an Inquiry into proposals for a new polyclinic, or GP-led health centre, in Leeds. This was in response to a high level of media coverage and public interest in the issue.
- 1.2 The proposal stems from the interim report of the 'NHS Next Stage Review', currently being carried out by Lord Darzi. Lord Darzi was appointed as a Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department of Health in June 2007, and instructed to carry out a review of the NHS and advise on how the challenges of the next decade will be addressed. The interim report, published in October 2007, highlighted a number of concerns including
- Continuing and widening Health Inequalities
  - Poor provision of GP surgeries in some areas
  - Poor access to GP services among some sections of the community
- 1.3 In order to address these concerns, each PCT has been instructed to create a new GP-led health centre. It is proposed that these centres will have longer opening hours than traditional GP practices (8am – 8pm, 7 days a week) and will offer 'walk-in' services to enable patients who are not registered, to see a doctor. The centres could potentially be much larger than traditional GP practices (catering for up to 50,000 patients), with the possibility of other healthcare services being located within the same building.
- 1.4 In Leeds, the new health centre will cater for around 1000 patients (by the end of the first year) and is expected to be located in Burmantofts. A contract is expected to be awarded by December 2008, with the centre opening in January 2009.
- 1.5 Nationally, these proposals have been met with a negative response from some quarters, including some GPs, who feel that traditional practices will lose patients and funding as a result, and that the quality of care offered in a 'polyclinic' will not match that delivered by a smaller GP surgery.

#### 2.0 Scope of the inquiry

- 2.1 The purpose of the Inquiry is to make an assessment of and, where appropriate, make recommendations on the following areas:

- The likely impact of Lord Darzi's interim report (NHS Next Stage Review) on healthcare in Leeds in the short, medium and longer term
- The impact which the proposed GP-led health centre will have on healthcare provision and Council Services (particularly Adult Social Care and Children's Services) in Leeds
- How the PCT can best manage the establishment of the new health centre in order to maximise the benefits for the population of Leeds and minimise any negative impact
- How the Council ought to approach the issue, and its overall role in managing public expectation

### **3.0 Comments of the relevant Director and Executive Member**

3.1 In line with Scrutiny Board Procedure Rule 12.4 the views of the relevant Director and Executive Member have been sought and have been incorporated where appropriate into these Terms of Reference. Full details are available on request from the Scrutiny Support Unit.

### **4.0 Structure of the Inquiry**

4.1 It is proposed that a range of approaches to evidence gathering are used in this Inquiry, including one or more of the following:

- A working group of the Scrutiny Board to consider some evidence and question key witnesses
- Full meetings of the Scrutiny board to consider some evidence and question key witnesses
- Discussion with key stakeholders
- Visits to selected establishments, as appropriate, to engage with service users and staff (for example, existing GP practices and health centres)

4.2 The Inquiry will conclude with the publication of a report, or statement, and recommendations by the Scrutiny Board that will be submitted to the appropriate forum.

### **5.0 Timetable for the inquiry**

5.1 It is initially planned that the Inquiry will take place over three sessions with a view to issuing a final report or statement in October 2008.

5.2 The length of the Inquiry is subject to change.

**6.0 Submission of evidence**

6.1 The following formal evidence gathering sessions are scheduled:

**6.2 Site visits – dates to be confirmed**

**6.3 Session one – (date to be confirmed)**

The purpose of this session is to consider background information on the reasons why GP-led health centres are being introduced, including:

- The interim report of the 'NHS Next Stage Review'
- The response of the BMA and the King's Fund to the proposals, nationally

Towards the end of the session, consideration will be given to any further and/or specific information required as part of the inquiry.

**6.2 Session two - (date to be confirmed)**

The second session of the inquiry will focus on how the proposals will affect Leeds. Members will consider:

- Existing Primary Care arrangements in the city, including any gaps in provision
- The detailed proposals for the GP-led health centre, including the process by which the site and services were selected, the ways in which consultation was carried out, and the results/outcome of any consultation undertaken
- The effects which the new health centre may have on existing services in the city, including Council services
- GP-led health centres in Leeds in the longer term

Towards the end of the session, consideration will be given to any further and/or specific information required as part of the inquiry.

**6.3 Session three - (date to be confirmed)**

Subject to any additional information being identified, consideration will be given to the content and recommendations of a draft final report or statement.

**7.0 Witnesses**

7.1 The following witnesses have been identified as possible contributors to the Inquiry:

- Leeds PCT
- Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust

- Leeds Partnerships Foundation Trust
- Leeds Local Medical Committee
- Leeds LINKs (preparatory group)
- Local ward members
- Director of Adult Social Services
- Director of Children's Services

## **8.0 Post inquiry report monitoring arrangements**

- 8.1 Following the completion of the Scrutiny inquiry and the publication of the final inquiry report and recommendations, the implementation of the agreed recommendations will be monitored. The Scrutiny Board will determine those arrangements at the end of the Inquiry.
- 8.2 The final inquiry report will include information on the detailed arrangements for how the implementation of recommendations will be monitored.

## **9.0 Measures of success**

- 9.1 It is important to consider how the Scrutiny Board will deem if their inquiry has been successful in making a difference to local people. Some measures of success may be obvious at the initial stages of an inquiry and can be included in these terms of reference. Other measures of success may become apparent as the inquiry progresses and discussions take place.
- 9.2 The Board will look to publish practical recommendations.