



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Health)

Date: 20 October 2009

Subject: Updated Work Programme 2009/10

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present and update members on the current outline work programme. The Board is asked to consider, amend and agree its work programme, as appropriate.

2.0 Background

2.1 At its meeting on 30 June 2009, the Board received a number of inputs to help members consider the Board's priorities during the current municipal year. This included specific inputs from:

- Executive Board Member for Adult Health and Social Care
- Deputy Director (Adult Social Services)
- NHS Leeds
- Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (LTHT)
- Leeds Partnerships Foundation Trust (LPFT)

2.2 At that meeting a number of potential work areas were identified by members of the Board. These potential areas were confirmed in a further report, along with an outline work programme, presented at the Board meeting held on 28 July 2009.

2.3 Subsequently, the outline work programme, including any emerging issues, is routinely presented to the Scrutiny Board consideration, amendment and/or agreement.

3.0 Specific work areas and the overall work programme (2009/10)

The role of the Council and its partners in promoting good public health – Scrutiny Inquiry

- 3.1 At the previous meeting (22 September 2009), members of the Scrutiny Board (Health) agreed terms of reference for the above inquiry. In this regard, the Board agreed to consider arrangements relating to four specific areas of public health.
- 3.2 The first session of this inquiry, which focused on issues around improving sexual health and reducing teenage pregnancies, has been considered elsewhere on the agenda. Further sessions are planned as follows:
- Obesity and levels of physical activity – November 2009;
 - Alcohol consumption – January 2010; and,
 - Smoking – February 2010;

Provision of renal services at Leeds General Infirmary (LGI)

- 3.3 At its meeting on 28 July 2009, the Scrutiny Board considered the current proposals from Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust (LTHT) associated with the provision of renal services (dialysis) across the Trust, particularly in terms of provision at Leeds General Infirmary (LGI).
- 3.4 The Scrutiny Board was advised that, at its meeting on 30 July 2009, the LTHT Board would be presented with a recommendation that a renal dialysis unit should not be created at the LGI site. The Scrutiny Board took evidence from a range of stakeholders, including the service commissioners, LTHT, Yorkshire Ambulance Service and patient representatives from the Kidney Patients Association (KPA) for LGI and St. James' University Hospital (SJUH).
- 3.5 Based on the Department of Health Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny for Health and the evidence presented at the meeting, the Scrutiny Board concluded that the proposed changes to renal dialysis provision represented a substantial variation to service delivery. As such, the Board recommended that a statutory period of consultation should take place prior to any decision of the (LTHT) Board.
- 3.6 The Scrutiny Board produced a statement to this effect, which was presented to the LTHT Board meeting on 30 July 2009. At that meeting, the LTHT Board agreed to defer its decision.
- 3.7 As part of the Scrutiny Board's statement, it was also highlighted that there were a number of outstanding issues that the Scrutiny Board wished to pursue. These were confirmed by way of a set of supplementary questions (Appendix 1), issued to LTHT and other key stakeholders on 6 August 2009. A formal response which addresses the issues raised is yet to be received.

Provision of dermatology services at Ward 43 (Leeds General Infirmary (LGI))

- 3.8 Members of the Scrutiny Board (Health) will be aware of the recent publicity associated with potential changes to the above service. The Board will also be aware that two separate requests for scrutiny (one coming from patients and one from the British Association of Dermatologists).
- 3.9 Given the timing of the recent publicity, the requests for scrutiny and the Board's meeting cycle, following discussions with members of the Scrutiny Board (Health),

the Chair of the Board has, initially, taken this issue forward on members' behalf. The action taken to date has included:

- Issuing a letter to the Chief Executive of LTHT (copied to NHS Leeds) seeking a moratorium on any further action until the Scrutiny Board has had the opportunity to consider the issues in more detail. The letter also sought a range of additional information and points of clarification regarding the proposals;
- Acknowledging receipt of the requests for scrutiny and inviting those making the requests to attend a future meeting of the Scrutiny Board (date to be determined). The letter also advised of the other action taken.

3.10 At the time of writing this report, a formal response from LTHT and/or NHS Leeds had not been received.

Use of 0844 Numbers at GP Surgeries

3.11 As Members of the Scrutiny Board will be aware, in September 2009, the Chair of the Scrutiny Board received correspondence from a member of Shadwell Parish Council, following concerns raised by local residents regarding the use of a 0844 telephone number at Shadwell Medical Centre.

3.12 The Department of Health undertook formal public consultation on the use of 084 telephone numbers within the NHS, between December 2008 and March 2009. The outcome of that consultation was published on 14 September 2009 and can be summarised as follows:

- The Department of Health intends to amend legislation and issue supporting guidance to NHS organisations to ensure that they review their current arrangements for telephony services and do not enter into future contracts/arrangements (or renew or extend an existing contract) where the overall effect of those arrangements is that patients pay more than the equivalent cost of calling a geographic number.
- The Department of Health intends to issue guidance to the NHS on the use of telephony systems that facilitate automated answering, recommending that the option to speak to a person should always be made available to the caller.
- The Department of Health does not intend to ban the 084 number range; rather, it intends to amend legislation and issue supporting guidance to the NHS to ensure that patients contacting the NHS do not pay more than the equivalent cost of a call to a geographic number, regardless of the number they call.

3.13 Following an exchange of correspondence between the Chair of the Scrutiny Board and NHS Leeds, it is clear that NHS Leeds intends to work with locally affected GP practices to understand the impact the results of the consultation may have. In a recent response, the Chair has asked that the Scrutiny Board be kept up-to-date with developments and has also sought clarification on the following:

- The overall number and location of the practices across Leeds currently utilising 0844 numbers;
- Who represent 'the providers of the service';
- Details of how NHS Leeds intend to reflect the concerns of patients and user groups, during any discussions with GP practices and the providers of the service;
- Details of the likely timescales involved.

- 3.14 The information received from NHS Leeds has been shared with the member of Shadwell Parish Council, along with details of how this is being taken forward on behalf of the Scrutiny Board. This has resulted in positive feedback both in terms of the action taken and the speed of response.

Health Proposals Working Group

- 3.15 At its previous meeting on 22 September 2009, the Scrutiny Board (Health) agreed to re-establish the working group and the associated terms of reference. The Board also agreed that Councillors Dobson and Chapman would form the core membership of the working group, with other members of the Board attending whenever possible.
- 3.16 At the time of writing this report, a date for the first meeting of this working group was yet to be agreed.

Openness in the NHS

- 3.17 The Department of Health publication ‘Code of Practice on Openness in the NHS’ (2003) sets out general principals for open and transparent decision-making within local NHS bodies.
- 3.18 In order to attempt to better understand how each of the local NHS Trusts interpret and implement the national guidance, Members will recall that, in August 2009, the Chair of the Scrutiny Board wrote to each Trust in this regard.
- 3.19 To date, responses from Leeds Partnerships NHS Foundation Trust (LPFT) and NHS Leeds have been received. A response from Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (LTHT) is being actively sought. Once received, these details will be presented and considered by the Board, as appropriate.

Children’s cardiac and neurosurgery services – national reviews

- 3.20 In September 2009, members of the Scrutiny Board were made aware of a national review of Children’s Cardiac Surgery Services currently being undertaken. The review is at a relatively early stage, with the review programme expected to run for approximately two years. The key milestones are set out below:

Date	Milestone
Sep 2009	Draft clinical standards circulated to stakeholders for comment
Oct 2009	National stakeholder event in London
Nov 2009	Final version of clinical standards circulated
Jul 2010	SCGs submit recommendations for future service delivery
Jul 2010	NHS Management Board considers the recommendations
Sep 2010	Public consultation on the recommendations begins
Jan 2011	Implementation of recommendations begins (subject to the outcome of the consultation)

- 3.21 The draft clinical standards, received earlier this month and circulated to stakeholders for comment, are attached at Appendix 2.
- 3.22 Currently, 11 centres across England provide Children’s Cardiac Surgery Services, with around 3,800 procedures being undertaken each year. One of the issues to be considered as part of the review will be a higher number of surgical procedures being carried out by each clinical team, with a larger number of surgeons in each surgical centre, and a smaller number of centres.

- 3.23 More recently, it has emerged that a similar national review of Children's Neurosurgery Services is also being undertaken.
- 3.24 Again, this review is at a relatively early stage and is expected to run for approximately two years. Currently, 15 centres across England provide Children's Neurosurgery Services. As yet, details of the key milestones and associated dates for the review have not been provided but are actively being sought.
- 3.25 A copy of the recently received Children's Neurosurgery Services Bulletin is attached at Appendix 3, for information.
- 3.26 Members of the Scrutiny Board will be interested to note that currently, both Children's Cardiac Surgery Services and Children's Neurosurgery Services are provided by Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

Executive Board Minutes

- 3.27 For information, the minutes from the Executive Board meeting held on 17 September 2009 are attached at Appendix 4. The Scrutiny Board is asked to consider these minutes within the context of making any adjustments to its work programme.

Work programme

- 3.28 A revised outline work programme is presented at Appendix 5 for consideration.
- 3.29 Members will be aware that the outline work programme should be regarded as a 'live' document, which may evolve and change over time to reflect any in-year change in priorities and/or emerging issues over the course of the year. As such, the Scrutiny Board is asked to consider the attached outline work programme and agree / amend as appropriate.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 Members are asked to;
- (i) Note the content of this report and associated appendices, particularly in terms of the updated positions reported across a number of work areas; and,
 - (ii) Consider the outline work programme attached at Appendix 5 and agree / amend as appropriate.

5.0 Background Documents

- Scrutiny Inquiry into the role of the Council and its partners in promoting good public health – agreed terms of reference (22 September 2009)
- Proposed Renal Services Provision at Leeds General Infirmary – Scrutiny Board Position Statement (29 July 2009)
- The use of 084 telephone numbers in the NHS – Department of Health response to consultation (September 2009)
- Code of Practice on Openness in the NHS – Department of Health (2003)
- Children's Cardiac Surgery Newsletter (August 2009)