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## Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

### Scrutiny Board (Health)

Date: 24 November 2009

Subject: Joint health scrutiny protocol - Yorkshire and the Humber

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#### Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

#### Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

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### 1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Scrutiny Board (for agreement) with a joint health scrutiny protocol for the Yorkshire and the Humber region. This protocol will form the basis for any joint scrutiny between the constituent local authorities within the region.

### 2.0 Background

- 2.1 Previously, Leeds City Council had signed up to a West Yorkshire Joint Health Scrutiny Protocol, enabling it to undertake joint health work with neighbouring local authorities. However, this protocol only covered the sub-region of West Yorkshire and, increasingly, issues that potentially affect the whole region have emerged.
- 2.2 Particularly with the advent of 'Choose and Book'<sup>1</sup>, health services are now provided to patients living in an increasingly wider geographical area. In addition, an increase in the commissioning of 'specialised services' on a regional basis (for example, renal services) can lead to proposed service changes, potentially, affecting patients from an area that spans two or more local authorities that are not in the same sub-region.
- 2.3 In terms of 'specialised services', to date, there has been little scrutiny of these (often very expensive) services, however, any future work should be undertaken on a regional basis.

### 3.0 Joint health scrutiny protocol - Yorkshire and the Humber

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<sup>1</sup> A national electronic referral service which gives patients a choice of place, date and time for their first outpatient appointment in a hospital or clinic. Patients are able to choose the hospital or clinic at which they are treated from a selection that often includes ones that are outside their immediate locality.

- 3.1 To address these issues, the Regional Health Scrutiny Officers Network has drafted a protocol (presented at Appendix 1) that suggests how the local authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber region could undertake scrutiny work together.
- 3.2 This protocol has taken the best elements from all the sub-regional protocols previously produced and provides a framework for any number of authorities (from two upwards) to meet, investigate and make recommendations on an issue

#### **4.0 Recommendations**

- 4.1 Members of the Scrutiny Board (Health) are asked to consider and agree the attached protocol.

#### **5.0 Background Documents**

None