



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Health)

Date: 26 January 2010

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 activity across a number of work areas and present an 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 for consideration, amendment and/or agreement: The work programme was previously presented and agreed at the Scrutiny Board meeting held on 15 December 2009.

3.0 Update on specific work areas and associated activity

- 3.1 At the meeting held on 20 October 2009, the Scrutiny Board was presented with a comprehensive update across a range of matters under the Board's consideration: This section of the report seeks to provide a similar update.

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

- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 The first session of the inquiry took place in October 2009, with the second session (in part) taking place at the previous meeting on 15 December 2009. However, as the Board's discussion around obesity and levels of physical activity remained incomplete, it was agreed to carry over some aspects of that session to the January 2010 meeting: Issues around obesity and levels of physical activity have been considered elsewhere on the agenda.
- 3.4 However, there has been some significant slippage against the originally agreed timetable. As such, a revised timetable to complete the inquiry is as follows:
- Alcohol consumption – February 2010;
 - Smoking and any other outstanding matter identified by the Scrutiny Board – undertaken through an appointed working group (to be agreed);
 - Completed inquiry report agreed April / may 2010.

Renal services in Leeds

- 3.5 The Scrutiny Board had two substantive discussions (July 2009 and November 2009) around proposed changes in the provision of renal services - particularly in terms of provision at Leeds General Infirmary.
- 3.6 In response to the evidence presented, at the meeting on 15 December 2009 the Scrutiny Board agreed a statement, which included a number of specific recommendations for various bodies and organisations.
- 3.7 For information, a copy of the final statement is attached at Appendix 1: This has been issued to each of the bodies/ organisations identified in the recommendations, in addition to other interested parties such as:
- The local Kidney Patients Associations
 - Other Health Scrutiny Chairs across the region (Yorkshire and the Humber)
 - Leaders of the main political groups (Leeds City Council)
 - Executive Board member for Adult Health and Social Care
 - Local Members of Parliament (MPs)
- 3.8 Some initial responses have been received: These include responses from the Strategic Health Authority (NHS Yorkshire and the Humber), Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (LTHT) and Specialised Commissioning Group (Yorkshire and the Humber).

- 3.9 A further report, including specific responses to each of the recommendations highlighted in the Scrutiny Board's statement, will be presented to the Board as soon as practicable.

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

- 3.10 Following consideration of the proposed changes at the meeting on 24 November 2009, the Scrutiny Board highlighted a number of concerns regarding the proposals and how these had been progressed at that time.
- 3.11 A letter from the Chair of the Scrutiny Board, has subsequently been issued to the Chief Executive of LTHT seeking clarification and reassurance on a number of areas: Not least, the process for continued and meaningful engagement with key stakeholders in developing future plans for delivery of the service.
- 3.12 A report on progress and any further development will be provided to the Scrutiny Board in due course and before the end of the current municipal year.

Use of 0844 Numbers at GP Surgeries

- 3.13 Following the update presented in October 2009, there have been no further developments. However, this remains an area where the Scrutiny Board will maintain a watching brief.

Health Proposals Working Group

- 3.14 The working group held its first meeting on 3 December 2009: The draft minutes from that meeting are presented elsewhere on the agenda.
- 3.15 A further meeting of the working group will take place later this year (most likely March 2010), although a precise date is yet to be agreed.

Openness in the NHS

- 3.16 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.
- 3.17 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.
- 3.18 Following the update presented in October 2009, there have been no further developments: However, this remains an area of interest and further updates will be provided in due course.

Children's cardiac and neurosurgery services – national reviews

- 3.19 In September 2009, members of the Scrutiny Board were made aware of a national review of Children's Cardiac Surgery Services currently being undertaken. In October 2009, members of the Scrutiny Board were also made aware of a national review of Children's Neurosurgery Services.
- 3.20 At the October 2009 Scrutiny Board meeting, members were advised of the proposed timescales for each review and reminded that both Children's Cardiac

Surgery Services and Children's Neurosurgery Services are provided by Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

- 3.21 In November 2009, the Chair of the Board attended a national stakeholder event in relation to the review of Children's Neurosurgery Services: Leeds City Council was the only local authority represented at the event.
- 3.22 The Chair of the Scrutiny Board has subsequently written to both the national team leading the reviews and, more locally, the Specialised Commission Group (Yorkshire and the Humber), seeking clarification around the involvement and engagement work with all key stakeholders – in particular local Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees. In order to keep other appraised of development, this recent correspondence has been shared with all other Health Scrutiny Chairs across the region (Yorkshire and the Humber).
- 3.23 Reports on developments and further updates will be provided to the Scrutiny Board in due course.

Quality Accounts

- 3.24 In June 2008, through the publication of the outcome of Lord Darzi's next stage review of the NHS (*High Quality Care for All*), the Government set out a new Quality Framework for all providers of NHS services: A key component of this framework is the requirement for all providers of NHS services to publish Quality Accounts: an annual public report on the quality of health care services delivered.
- 3.25 In this regard, a letter from the Department of Health has recently been received which sets out the roles of Commissioning Primary Care Trusts (PCTs), Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) and local authority [Health] Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSCs). A copy of the letter received is attached at Appendix 2.
- 3.26 In the absence of final regulations, the letter sets out some key issues for the Scrutiny Board to consider, including:
- Timescales for the production of Quality Accounts;
 - Details of those service providers required to produce Quality Accounts in the first year (i.e. by June 2010);
 - Details of the statutory role of commissioning PCTs
 - An outline of the voluntary, and potentially complementary, roles of the Leeds LINK and the Scrutiny Board (Health)
- 3.27 Given the recently established arrangements for reporting performance to the Board, the potential role of the Scrutiny Board could be seen as a useful extension to such arrangements in the current year and for the future. In this context, preliminary discussions between local NHS Trusts and the Principal Scrutiny Adviser have taken place regarding the potential role of the Scrutiny Board and the timing of any such input.
- 3.28 It is likely that further discussions with local NHS Trusts are required, alongside any discussions with Leeds LINK: Members of the Scrutiny Board are asked to offer and agree any opinion which may help in any further discussions.

4.0 Work programme (2009/10)

- 4.1 A revised outline work programme is presented at Appendix 3 for consideration.
- 4.2 For information, the minutes from the Executive Board meetings held on 9 December 2009 and 6 January 2010 are attached at Appendix 4 and Appendix 5, respectively. The Scrutiny Board is asked to consider these minutes within the context of making any adjustments to its work programme.
- 4.3 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. As such, the Scrutiny Board is asked to consider the attached outline work programme for the remainder of the year and agree / amend as appropriate.

5.0 Recommendations

- 5.1 Members are asked to consider the details presented in this report and:
- 5.1.1 Agree the arrangements and revised timetable for completing the scrutiny inquiry around '*The role of the Council and its partners in promoting good public health*';
- 5.1.2 Note the updated information presented and need for further updates/ reports (as appropriate) around the following matters:
- Renal services in Leeds
 - Provision of dermatology services
 - Use of 0844 Numbers at GP Surgeries
 - The Health Proposals Working Group
 - Openness in the NHS
 - Children's Cardiac and Neurosurgery Services – national reviews
- 5.1.3 Consider the information presented around 'Quality Accounts' and agree any matters that may usefully help further discussions around the Board's future role in this regard; and,
- 5.1.4 Consider the outline work programme attached at Appendix 3 and agree / amend as appropriate

6.0 Background Documents

- Scrutiny Board (Health) – Updated Work programme (20 October 2009)
- Scrutiny Board (Health) – Updated Work programme (24 November 2009)