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## Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board: Scrutiny Board (Health)

Date: 25 June 2010

Subject: Input to the Work Programme 2010/11 – Sources of Work and  
Establishing the Board's Priorities

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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 of Report

1.1 This report provides information and guidance to assist the Board develop its work programme for 2010/11.

## 2.0 Background

2.1 For reference and/ or information purposes, a copy of the Board's terms of reference is attached at Appendix 1. A copy of the previous Board's annual report (2009/10) is attached at Appendix 2.

2.2 In addition, relevant information from the following key sources have been extracted appropriate to this Board's responsibilities and attached (Appendix 2) to this report to assist Members in developing the Board's work programme for 2010/11:

- Leeds Strategic Plan 2008 -2011 – Executive Summary – (Appendix 3a);
- Combined extract from Leeds' Director of Public Health Annual Reports (2008 and 2009) – outlining recommendations for action to reduce health inequalities (2008) and associated progress (2009) – (Appendix 3b);
- List of scrutiny inquiries relevant to the Board's portfolio undertaken since 2003 – (Appendix 3c).

2.3 Once agreed, the Scrutiny Board's work programme should be considered as a live document that will evolve over time to reflect any changing and/or emerging issues identified throughout the year. As such, other sources of work, such as 'requests for scrutiny' and corporate referrals are likely to continue.

### **3.0 Health and Well-Being Partnership Plan (2009 – 2012)**

- 3.1 Health and wellbeing is one of eight key themes within the Leeds Strategic Plan (2008-2011). The Health and Wellbeing Partnership Plan (2009 – 2012) is part of the broader Leeds Strategic Plan, and is based on the outcomes and priorities agreed by the Council and its partners and shaped by local people.
- 3.2 The Health and Wellbeing Partnership Plan (2009 – 2012) concentrates on the main high level actions necessary to help deliver the agreed strategic outcomes and priorities: These high level actions are detailed in the attached action plan for the improvement priorities (Appendix 4).
- 3.3 During the previous year, the Scrutiny Board undertook an inquiry that examined the role of the Council and its Partners in promoting good public health – by examining three specific areas of public health, namely sexual health, obesity and alcohol related harm.
- 3.4 In light of the work undertaken by the previous Board, members are asked to consider the improvement priorities identified in the Health and Wellbeing Partnership Plan (2009 – 2012).
- 3.5 In addition, in March 2010, it should be noted that the Department of Health (DH) published the Chief Medical Officer's Annual Report (2009) which includes general comment on the state of public health. It also provides comment on specific issues and public health activity across the regions. In relation to Yorkshire and the Humber, specific reference is made to the challenge of financial inclusion – citing some specific work undertaken in Leeds. This publication may provide a useful source of information to both inform the work programme and provide evidence for any specific inquiries. A copy of the publication is attached at Appendix 5.

### **4.0 Guidance**

- 4.1 Over the last few years of Scrutiny Board work, experience has shown that the process is more effective if the Board seeks to minimise the number of substantial inquiries running at any one time. This view was echoed within the findings of the recent KPMG external report on the Scrutiny function in Leeds.
- 4.2 The Board is advised to consider the benefits of single item agendas (excluding miscellaneous information and minutes) in order to focus on all the relevant evidence and complete an inquiry in a shorter period of time. There are various mechanisms available to assist the Board in concluding inquiries quickly, such as working groups and site visits.
- 4.3 The agreed Memorandum of Understanding between Executive Board and Overview and Scrutiny which sits within the Council's Constitution states;

*The responsibility of those setting scrutiny work programmes is, therefore, to ensure that items of work come from a strategic approach as well as a need to challenge service performance and respond to issues of high public interest.*

*It is recognised that Scrutiny Boards have a 'watching brief' role. In addition information is required for members' own development process, particularly as membership of the Boards is changed annually.*

*However, it is also recognised that agendas are often filled up with reports for this purpose, which takes up time for both officers and Members. Where Scrutiny Boards wish to ask questions at a general or more strategic level and/or be updated on issues already considered in detail, the facility of Members' Questions – where a verbal exchange replaces written reports - should be used.*

*It is expected that where ever possible prior notification is given of the likely questions to be asked”.*

- 4.4 Over recent years the Children's Services Board in particular has continued to develop the approach of devoting one meeting per quarter to performance management and 'horizon scanning' issues. This includes discussing relevant issues with Executive Members and officers, and has been acknowledged as good practice.
- 4.5 During the previous year, the Scrutiny Board (Health) worked towards establishing similar arrangements for considering performance, which included formal consideration of the Quality Accounts produced by Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (LTHT) and Leeds Partnerships NHS Foundation Trust (LPFT).
- 4.6 The Board is advised to consider further development and strengthening of such arrangements.

## **5.0 Work programming**

- 5.1 To assist the Scrutiny Board and contribute to the discussions about the Board's work programme for 2009/10, the following have been invited to attend the meeting:
- The Executive Member for Adult Health and Social Care (Councillor Lucinda Yeadon);
  - The Director of Adult Social Services (or nominee);
  - The Chair and Chief Executive of local NHS Trusts.
- 5.2 Following discussions detailed elsewhere on the agenda, the Board will be asked to determine an outline work programme that prioritises the issues the Board wishes to consider in more detail

## **6.0 Recommendations**

- 6.1 Members are requested to use the attached information and the discussion with those present at the meeting to develop its work programme.

## **7.0 Background Papers**

- The Council's Constitution
- Council Business Plan 2008 – 2011
- Leeds Strategic Plan 2008 – 2011
- Leeds Health and Well- Being Partnership Plan (2009 – 2012)