

Scrutiny Inquiry Report

The Role of the Council and its Partners in Promoting Good Public Health

Advice from Directors and comments Chief Officers

The Council's Constitution¹ states that where a Scrutiny Board is considering making specific recommendations it shall invite advice from the appropriate Director(s) prior to finalising its recommendations. In this regard, the Director shall consult with the appropriate Executive Member before providing any such advice, the detail of which will be reported to the Scrutiny Board and considered before the report and recommendations are finalised.

A summary of the advice received from the appropriate Directors is provided in the table below. Comments from other Chief Officers are also provided for information.

Director	Details of advice received
Director of Adult Social Services	<p>Thank you for sending the above report. I have no specific comments on accuracy and am pleased that the report so strongly endorses and seeks to extend the direction of travel in a number of the key areas.</p> <p>My one comment is in relation to the use of the word 'lobby' in 2 of the recommendations (7 and 4). I wonder if the recommendation should be either for the Director(s) to write to the Minister on behalf of the authority or to seek to influence policy through relevant professional bodies. It would not be usual to associate the role of Director with direct individual 'lobbying' to Government.</p>
Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance)	<p>With regard to recommendation 10, it should be noted that the Council has a legal duty to consider a raft of things when taking decisions e.g. equality of opportunity and then these legal duties are overlain by the Council's own policies. To pick public health out for "special treatment" would, I think lead to a tick box mentality which has happened when we have tried things like this before.</p> <p>However, public health matter can certainly be added to the list of issues report authors are asked to consider when drafting reports. This can be done as part of the review of current guidance.</p>
Director of City Development	No advice received.
Interim Director of Children's Services	No advice received.
Chief Executive of NHS Leeds	No advice received.

¹ Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules – paragraph 16.3

Chief Officer	Details of comments received
Head of Scrutiny and Member Development	<p>In relation to recommendation 1 I would offer the following advise: This recommendation is agreed with the following caveat; the development of Scrutiny Board work programmes rests with members of the Board alone However, the role of the Board's Principal Scrutiny Adviser is to provide guidance to the Chair and Board Members as to what that work programme might be. The analysis and review of Public Health issues are of great importance and a fundamental remit of the Health Board therefore advise from officers would be to ensure such work is incorporated into the annual work programme.</p>
Head of Licensing and Registration Services	<p>Further to production of the draft scrutiny report, it should be noted that the government, very recently published the document '<i>The Coalition: our programme for government</i>'.</p> <p>Under item 6 (Crime and Policing) there are several key points concerning the licensing regime, which are of particular relevance to recommendations 7 and 8 set out in the draft report. Specifically, regarding recommendation 8 (minimum pricing per unit alcohol), the government's document sets out proposals to '...ban the sale of alcohol below cost price'. As such, it may be appropriate to review this recommendation as currently drafted to reflect the current position and recognise that the government plans will most likely include specific consultation on this matter with a wide range of partners and agencies. Any such consultation will provide an opportunity for all key stakeholders in Leeds to comment, including local NHS Trusts and the Council (both generally and as the local Licensing Authority).</p>