



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Health)

Date: 22 March 2011

Subject: NHS Operating Framework 2011/12

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 introduce the NHS Operating Framework 2011/12, issued by the Department of Health on 15 December 2010. The Operating Framework is a planning documents that sets out the priorities for the NHS for 2011/12 and this report provides the opportunity for the Scrutiny Board (Health) to explore the local implications and any associated impacts.

2.0 Background

2.1 In July 2010, the Government launched its overall vision for the future of the NHS via its White Paper, *'Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS'*. This set out key proposals for change and reform for the commissioning and delivery of NHS services. In December 2010, the Government published its response to the initial consultation and subsequently published its draft Health and Social Care Bill, which is currently progressing through Parliament.

2.2 Since the initial publication of the proposed NHS reforms, the Scrutiny Board (Health) has taken a keen interest in the proposals and the likely local implications – in terms of the overall local health economy and landscape, and specific implications for the Council and its future additional responsibilities. As part of this work, at its meeting on 25 January 2011, the Board agreed to consider the NHS Operating Framework 2011/12, which was published by the Department of Health on 15 December 2010.

3.0 NHS Operating Framework 2011/12

- 3.1 The NHS Operating Framework 2011/12 (attached at Appendix 1) sets out the national priorities for the NHS, including maintaining performance on key waiting times, continuing to reduce healthcare associated infections, and reducing emergency readmission rates. It states that the forthcoming financial year is likely to be very demanding for the NHS, as it begins the transition to the new system and structure envisaged in *Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS*. Nonetheless, delivering improved quality for patients, by improving safety, effectiveness and patient experience, remains the core purpose of the NHS, and the NHS Operating Framework 2011/12.
- 3.2 The NHS Operating Framework 2011/12 sets out in some detail the over-arching goal of building strong foundations for the new system by:
- Maintaining and improving quality;
 - Keeping tight financial control;
 - Delivering on the quality and productivity challenge; and,
 - Creating energy and momentum for transition and reform.
- 3.3 To help the Board consider the details of the NHS Operating Framework 2011/12 and its local impact, senior representatives from key organisations have been invited to attend the Board meeting, to outline its implications and challenges for individual organisations and for the overall local health economy. The organisations due to be represented at the meeting are:
- NHS Leeds
 - Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (LTHT)
 - Leeds Partnerships NHS Foundation Trust (LPFT)
 - Leeds Community Healthcare (LCH)

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 Members are asked to:
- 4.1.1 Consider and note the details presented in this report and those discussed at the meeting; and,
- 4.1.2 Identify any specific matters that require further scrutiny and/or are to be included on the Board's future work programme.

5.0 Background Documents

- The NHS White paper – *Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS* – July 2010