



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 11th September 2007

Subject: Protocol between Scrutiny and Statutory Public Sector Partners in Leeds

Electoral Wards Affected:

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Local Government Act 2000 brought in new arrangements that clearly defined a scrutiny role for elected members in holding executives of councils to account.
- 1.2 One of the most interesting aspects of a local authority's scrutiny powers is their ability to consider matters that are not the responsibility of the local authority, but which affect the authority's area or its population. An extension of this scrutiny power was introduced by the Health and Social Care Act 2001, enabling local government scrutiny of local health services.
- 1.3 The previous agenda item refers in paragraph 2.2 to the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill extending the powers that local authorities already have to scrutinise health services within their areas to the activities of a number of named public sector partners, as part of their wider community leadership role for the city.
- 1.4 The purpose of the attached protocol is to provide guidance and a common understanding for how scrutiny of named public sector partners will operate in Leeds. The protocol has been drawn up during the early stages of the new arrangements and may be amended and further developed as the relationship between scrutiny and public sector partners develops. The aim is for all parties to help ensure that scrutiny remains a positive and challenging process.
- 1.5 The protocol is based on a similar one drawn up for Health Services in Leeds which has proved to be very useful.

1.6 Councillor Anderson has suggested that Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods) test out the protocols with an Inquiry into an area of Police activity. This is being pursued by officers on his behalf.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Members are asked to;

- (i) Consider and comment on the draft protocol.