
Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board: Scrutiny Board (Health)

Date: 27 July 2010

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

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity
Community Cohesion
Narrowing the Gap

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 At the previous meeting of the Board on 25 June 2010, Members were provided with a range of background information to consider when developing the Board's work programme for 2010/11. This information included:

- A copy of the Board's terms of reference;
- The previous Board's annual report (2009/10);
- Leeds Strategic Plan 2008 -2011 – Executive Summary;
- 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);
- List of scrutiny inquiries relevant to the Board's portfolio undertaken since 2003;
- Health and Wellbeing Partnership Plan (2009 – 2012) – high level plans for each improvement priority;
- The Chief Medical Officer's Annual Report (2009), published by the Department of Health;

2.2 These details have not been re-provided in this report, but are available on request.

3.0 Additional Sources of Information

3.1 In addition to the details outlined above and provided at the Scrutiny Board meeting in June 2010, the following information is also provided to assist the Board develop its work programme for 2010/11:

- The Operating Framework for the NHS in England for 2010/11 (Appendix 1);
- Revision to the Operating Framework for the NHS in England for 2010/11 (Appendix 2); and,
- The NHS Constitution (2010) (Appendix 3)

Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS

3.2 Earlier in July 2010, the new coalition government published its vision for the future shape and delivery of the National Health Service (NHS) through its White Paper – *Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS*. A copy of the White Paper is attached at Appendix 4.

3.3 To assist the Scrutiny Board's consideration of the White Paper, its key proposals and implications for local government, a Local Government Group briefing is attached at Appendix 5.

3.4 Many of the changes in the White Paper will require primary legislation (as outlined in paragraph 6.7 of Appendix 5). The proposals are also likely to involve changes at every level of the NHS, with the pace of change likely to vary across the country – according to organisations' readiness to assume their new functions.

3.5 Given the significance of the proposals set out in the White Paper, this might form a particular focus within the Scrutiny Board's work programme for 2010/11.

4.0 Guidance

4.1 The Board was also provided with guidance from a range of sources to take into account in both setting and undertaking its work programme during the course of 2010/11. For ease of reference, such guidance is repeated below.

- (i) 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.
- (ii) 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.
- (iii) 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”.

- (iv) 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.
- (v) 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).
- (vi) The Board is advised to consider further development and strengthening of such arrangements.

5.0 Work programming

5.1 At the previous meeting, the Board heard from the following stakeholders:

- The Executive Member for Adult Health and Social Care (Councillor Lucinda Yeadon);
- The Deputy Director of Adult Social Services;
- The Chair and Chief Executive of Leeds Partnerships NHS Foundation Trust.

5.2 The main issues discussed are presented in the minutes of the previous meeting, detailed elsewhere on the agenda.

5.3 To further 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 Chair and Chief Executive of NHS Leeds (the City's Primary Care Trust); and,
- The Chair and Chief Executive of Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (LTHT).

5.4 Following discussions, the Board will be asked to determine an outline work programme that prioritises the issues the Board wishes to consider in more detail (detailed elsewhere on the agenda).

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

- Scrutiny Board (Health) – 25 June 2010: Input into the work programme 2010/11