



SCRUTINY TOPIC REGISTRATION FORM

PROPOSED TOPIC:

Study into whether the way Health Visitors in York work presently, allows them to offer a full and effective service to mothers and their babies from birth to six months

COUNCILLOR (S) REGISTERING THE TOPIC: Councillor S Wiseman

SECTION 1: ABOUT THE TOPIC

Please complete this section as thoroughly as you can. The information provided will help Scrutiny Officers and Scrutiny Members to assess the following key elements to the success of any scrutiny review:

How a review should best be undertaken given the subject

Who needs to be involved

What should be looked at

By when it should be achieved; and

Why we are doing it ?

Please describe how the proposed topic fits with 3 of the eligibility criteria attached.

As a general rule, topics will only proceed to review if they meet 3 of the criteria below. However, where it is adequately demonstrated that a topic is of significant public interest and fits with the first criteria but does not meet 3, Scrutiny Management Committee may still decide to allocate the topic for review. Please indicate which 3 criteria the review would meet and the relevant scrutiny roles:

	✓	Policy Development & Review	Service Improvement & Delivery	Accountability of Executive Decisions
Public Interest (ie. in terms of both proposals being in the public interest and resident perceptions)	✓		✓	
Under Performance / Service Dissatisfaction				
In keeping with corporate priorities	✓		✓	
Level of Risk				
Service Efficiency				
National/local/regional significance e.g. A central government priority area, concerns joint working arrangements at a local 'York' or wider regional context	✓		✓	

Public Interest: It is in the public interest that the care provided by Health Visitors for new mothers and their babies from birth to six months be as effective and complete as possible

In keeping with Corporate priorities: This fits in with the 'Healthy City' theme of the recently refreshed Corporate Strategy - 'we want to be a city where residents enjoy long, healthy and independent lives. For this to happen we will make sure that people are supported to make healthier lifestyle choices and that health and social care services are quick to respond to those that need them'

National/local/regional significance: The Dept of Health is emphasising improvements to the care of mothers and their babies as shown by the recent paper "Maternity Matters". Also "Facing the Future: a review of the role of Health Visitors".

Set out briefly the purpose of any scrutiny review of your proposed topic. What do you think it should achieve?

If you have not already done so above, please indicate in response to this, how any review would be in the public or Council's interest e.g. reviewing recycling options in the city would reduce the cost to the Council for landfill

This scrutiny review should aim to achieve:

- An understanding of both government and local initiatives in relation to post natal care (health and well-being of both mother and child (until the child reaches 6 months)
- Recommendations for an improved post natal service for all mothers and their new born children (to the age of 6 months)
- A better understanding amongst users/prospective users of the services available to them

It is in both the public and the Council's interest to offer a good service as this will, ultimately improve the standards of health and well being amongst new born children and their mothers.

Good quality care and access to relevant services when they are needed is necessary for healthy and thriving children.

Please explain briefly what you think any scrutiny review of your proposed topic should cover.

This information will be used to help prepare a remit for the review should Scrutiny Management Committee decide the topic meets the criteria e.g. How much recycling is presently being done and ways of increasing it

- History of both initiatives ('Delivering Healthy Ambitions' & 'Maternity Matters' and background on the services available in York
- Statistic evidence (how many use the service, what services are available, where they are available, how people find out about them)
- How many care centres offer post natal services in York (for both mother and child until 6 months of age)
- Raising awareness – if people are not using the services then why not. Are they aware of how to access them and what is available?
- Will health visitors be able to offer a complete/satisfactory service once the new 'maternity matters' initiative is introduced?
- Could any improvements be made to the service?

Please indicate which other Councils, partners or external services could, in your opinion, participate in the review, saying why.

Involving the right people throughout the process is crucial to any successful review e.g. CYC Commercial Services / other local councils who have reviewed best practice for recycling / other organisations who use recycled goods

Margaret Jackson- York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
 NHS North Yorkshire & York
 Relevant Officers at CYC/Children's Social Services
 Health visitors/nursing staff/midwives
 GP Practices (David Geddes)
 Maternity Services Liaison Committee (MSLC)
 LINKs
 Paediatric and SCBU staff York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
 Health Visitor management staff from NY&Y PCT
 Mothers

Explain briefly how, in your opinion, such a review might be most efficiently undertaken?

This is not about who might be involved (addressed above) but how the review might be conducted e.g. sending a questionnaire to each household to gather information on current recycling practices and gathering information on how recycling is carried out in Cities similar to York

1. Receive background information followed by;
2. Informal discussion day on key issues
3. From this may follow specific discussions with certain groups to discuss possibilities for tackling issues/concerns raised at the informal day
4. Leading to recommendations arising from the review

Estimate the timescale for completion.

Please circle below the nearest timescale group, in your estimation, based on the information you have given in this form.

- (a) 1-3 months;
- (b) **3-6 months**; or
- (c) 6-9 months

PLEASE ENCLOSE ANY SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS OR OTHER INFORMATION YOU FEEL MIGHT BE USEFUL BACKGROUND TO THE SUBMISSION OF THIS TOPIC FOR CONSIDERATION.

Useful documents for background material are:

'Delivering healthy Ambitions'

'Maternity Matters'

Children's National Service Framework

Child Health Promotion Programme (NSF 17 March 2008)

Facing the Future: a review of the role of the Health Visitor (DOH 2007)

Concerns regarding this service were raised at the MSLC meeting initially in the context of no longer having a Health Visitor attending the MSLC which, was feared might be a factor in a break in communication between HV's and other Maternity Service Staff as well as the Paediatric Department. The fact that HV's do not now come to the MSLC seems to be related to their new way of working.

It is important that we put a good service in place from the beginning as Maternity Matters is being introduced at the end of 2009. We need to avoid people slipping through the net and not getting the care and support they need. To date my understanding is that HV's proactively contact women 10 days after they give birth when they take over from the midwife. I am not sure what their schedule of visits is or what their criteria for assessing that a family is "in need" of regular visits. My impression is that this has changed, i.e. been reduced. I am uncertain how HV's interact with GP's.