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## Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2010

Report of the Head of Civic, Legal & Democratic Services

### Update Report – Proposed Scrutiny Topic on Post Maternity Services

#### Summary

1. This report asks Members to consider information requested at a previous meeting (Annexes A & B refer) and to make a decision on whether to progress this topic to review.

#### Background

2. In October 2009 Councillor Wiseman submitted a scrutiny topic regarding whether the way health visitors currently work in York allows them to offer a full and effective service to mothers and their babies from birth to six months.
3. At a meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2009 the Committee considered a feasibility report which advised that because NHS North Yorkshire & York were currently undertaking a piece of work that would culminate in a revised universal services model for 0 to 19 year olds, it would be better to receive further information from them prior to making a decision on whether to proceed with the topic.
4. The review being undertaken by NHS North Yorkshire & York is being undertaken in order to develop a service specification for 0-19 universal health services (historically known as health visiting and school nursing services) based around the National Healthy Child Programmes. It will be a countywide specification outlining what services need to be delivered and what outcomes are expected. There will however be flexibility built in to enable providers to work with users and stakeholders to agree on the model of local delivery. The aim is to define a detailed service specification for these elements of health services by the end of October 2010. This will then enable the Primary Care Trust (PCT) to be clear how current services may differ from the Healthy Child Programme and what is required to move forward.
5. At a meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2010 the Committee received a presentation from the Health Visiting Team Leader for Children's Services at NHS North Yorkshire & York on the current expected input from midwives and health visitors for the first 6 months of a child's development and the links between

them. It was confirmed that a new health strategy had been introduced in 2009, which required examination of the commissioning pathways.

6. On consideration of the information received in the original feasibility report and the above-mentioned presentation, Members confirmed that they generally supported progressing this topic to review as they wished to ensure that any new pathways/models would provide the correct level of services for all. However, Members agreed to wait for a further update from NHS North Yorkshire & York before committing to undertake a review on this topic.
7. This update was received and considered at a meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2010 when the Head of Children's & Young People's Commissioning from NHS North Yorkshire and York was in attendance. On consideration of the update Members agreed that the information provided so far only went some way to addressing the concerns raised within the original topic registration form. Members therefore agreed to prepare a list of specific questions they would like the answers to and these were circulated to NHS North Yorkshire and York for their response. Both questions and responses are attached at Annexes A & B to this report.
8. Representatives from NHS North Yorkshire & York will be in attendance at the meeting to present the information in the attached annexes and to answer any questions that the Committee might have.

## **Consultation**

9. The following persons have been consulted in relation to this topic:
  - Executive Member for Children's Services
  - Director of Learning, Culture & Children's Services (Now Director of Adults, Children & Education)
  - Representatives of NHS North Yorkshire & York
  - Representatives of York Hospitals Foundation Trust
  - York LINK (Local Involvement Network)

## **Options**

10. Members are asked to consider the following options:

**Option A** Progress this topic to review indicating a clear focus for any piece of work to be undertaken

**Option B** Do not progress this topic to review

## **Analysis**

11. At earlier meetings of the Committee Members had indicated that they were minded to progress this topic to review. However, they are advised to carefully consider both the information received today (Annexes A & B refer) and that received on previous occasions. Annexes A & B of this report contain answers to the questions set by the Committee as a direct result of

their meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2010. Members are now asked to receive this information and consider whether there is any need to progress this topic to review.

12. Since the Committee first considered this topic in December 2009, a wealth of information has been received from various sources on the concerns raised within the original topic registration form. Members are now asked to seriously consider whether any further information could be provided if this topic were to be progressed to review. They are also asked to consider what value could be added by progressing this topic to review. One way of assessing this would be for Members to consider whether the information they have received to date indicates that there are any gaps in service provision and if so what those gaps are. These could then be used as a basis for a remit for any review. Members should also consider that NHS North Yorkshire & York are currently undertaking a review of this service themselves.
13. However, Members should be advised that a review couldn't take place solely to gather information, as the Committee can already request information as and when it needs it. A review should have a clear direction and focus with the emphasis being on achievable outcomes and recommendations.
14. Should Members choose to proceed with a review on this topic then a draft remit, scope and timetable would be the first items that would need to be prepared. These should clearly define the aim and key objectives of the review. It is suggested, that should these be required, they be drafted by a small cross-party task group in conjunction with the Scrutiny Lead Officer, the Scrutiny Officer and relevant technical officers and presented to a future meeting of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee for formal approval.

## **Corporate Strategy 2009/2012**

15. The contents of this report and the focus of any review that may be undertaken are directly linked to the 'Healthy City' theme of the Corporate Strategy.

## **Implications**

16. **Financial** – There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations within this report however; should Members of the Committee choose to progress this topic to review implications may arise. There is a small amount of funding within the scrutiny budget to enable reviews to take place.
17. **Legal** – There are no known legal implications associated with the recommendations within this report however; should this topic be progressed to review implications may arise.
18. **Human Resources** – There are no known Human Resources implications associated with the recommendations within this report.

19. There are no known equalities, crime & disorder, information technology or property implications associated with the recommendations within this report.

### **Risk Management**

20. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy there are no risks associated with the recommendations within this report.

### **Recommendations**

21. Members of the Committee are advised to consider approving Option B and not progress this topic to review on the basis that work is already being undertaken by HNS North Yorkshire & York on this topic.

Reason: To address the registered scrutiny topic

### **Contact Details**

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Report Approved

Date 13.09.2010

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** None

**Wards Affected:**

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

### **Background Papers:**

None

### **Annexes**

**Annex A** Response from NHS North Yorkshire & York  
**Annex B** Citywide Clinic Information