
Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

22nd September 2010

Report of the Head of Civic, Legal & Democratic Services

Consultation on Government White Paper 'Equity & Excellence: Liberating the NHS'

Summary

1. This report presents Members with an early draft report to the Executive (dated 5th October 2010) (Annex A refers) in relation to the Government Health White Paper 'Equity & Excellence: Liberating the NHS'. The report also includes an early draft of the proposed Council response to the consultation (Annex B refers).
2. The draft report and response are due to be considered by Council Management Team (CMT) on Wednesday 15th September 2010. Changes may be made to the draft report attached at this meeting and any updates will be reported to the Committee at today's meeting.

Background

3. The Government launched its White Paper 'Equity & Excellence: Liberating the NHS' on 12th July 2010. A summary of the main proposals is set out in paragraph 2 of Annex A.
4. Alongside the White Paper four consultation have been launched:
 - On the outcomes framework
 - On the commissioning arrangements
 - On local democratic legitimacy in health
 - On provider regulation
5. The Healthy City Board will be considering the consultation documents at their meeting on 14th September 2010. A paper will be taken to the Executive on 5th October to agree whether there will be any formal response from the Council on any of the consultation documents. The closing date for responding to the consultation is 11th October 2010.
6. Prior to today's meeting a briefing note was e-mailed to the Committee asking for any initial comments that they might have. These, where possible, have been incorporated into the Council's response to the consultation papers.

Consultation

7. Members of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee, the Healthy City Board and the Executive will all be consulted on the consultation prior to a response being made.

Options

8. Members are asked to:
 - i. Note and comment on the attached annexes.
 - ii. Agree a collective response from the Committee to accompany the Council's official response and any response from the Healthy City Board

Analysis

9. Detailed analysis is included within the report to the Executive at Annex A to this report.
10. Members are asked to agree a collective response from the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee to go alongside the official response from the Council and any response from the Healthy City Board.

Corporate Strategy 2009/2012

11. This report and its associated annexes are linked to the 'Healthy City' theme of the Corporate Strategy 2009/12.

Implications

12. Implications are set out within paragraphs 60 to 66 of the draft report to the Executive (Annex A refers).

Risk Management

13. There is a risk of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee's voice not being heard if Members do not comment on the consultation. This could lead to a potential consequential effect that new legislation may be introduced, which could impact on the ability of any Health Scrutiny Committee to independently scrutinise health services.

Recommendations

14. Members are asked to:
 - i. Note and comment on the report and response at Annexes A & B to this report

Reason: To give voice to the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee's views on the White Paper and associated consultation documents.

Contact Details

Author:

Tracy Wallis
Scrutiny Officer
Scrutiny Services
01904 551714

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Andrew Docherty
Head of Civic, Legal & Democratic Services
01904 551004

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** Draft Report to the Executive (5th October 2010)**Annex B** Draft Response