
Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

3rd November 2010

Report of the Head of Civic, Legal & Democratic Services

Proposed Scrutiny Topic on Carers

Summary

1. This report asks Members to consider whether they wish to undertake a scrutiny review in relation to carers.

Background

2. At a recent training event Members were presented with a document 'an outline approach for proposed scrutiny reviews', which set out a new way of introducing possible scrutiny topics for review. This document sets out a series of basic questions to be answered. Members who attended the training session thought there would be merit in trialling this document rather than using the standard 'topic registration form'.
3. The Chair of the Committee had recently suggested that a scrutiny review on the subject of carers could be a possible piece of work for the Committee to undertake. The 'outline approach' questions have been used as a basis of briefly setting out the aims and expected outcomes of any review on this subject. In this instance and to aid debate the Chair of the Committee has completed the questions prior to the meeting, in draft form and in conjunction with relevant council officers and these are attached at Annex 1 to this report.

Consultation

4. To date consultation has taken place between the Chair of the Committee and the relevant council officers. If the proposed topic were to be progressed to review then further consultation would take place. Initial ideas of possible consultees are set out within Annex 1.

Options

5. Members have the following options:

Option A Progress this topic to review

Option B Do not progress this topic to review

Analysis

6. Members are asked to consider the information attached at Annex 1 to this report. Should Members choose to progress this topic to review they would need to add into this document any additional information that they felt was required. This should include sufficient details to help Members scope and timetable any review that they choose to undertake and ideally this task should be undertaken at today's meeting. The finished document should also include answers to the following questions:
 - What do you want to do?
 - When do you want to do it?
 - How do you want to do it?
 - Who do you want to invite?
7. Alternatively the Committee may wish to set up a cross-party task group to undertake the scoping and timetabling as well as the review. If this is the preferred way forward then it is suggested that the task group meet informally with the relevant officers within the next few weeks to scope and timetable the review. This could then be presented to the Committee for approval at their December meeting.
8. If the Committee choose to agree a scope and timetable of any review at today's meeting it would mean that work could start on the actual review much sooner. However, the Committee would still need to decide whether they wished the work to be undertaken by a small cross-party task group or by the Committee as a whole.

Corporate Priorities

9. The proposed topic is linked to the 'Healthy City' aspect of the Corporate Strategy 2009/2012.

Implications

10. **Financial** – There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report however implications may arise if the topic is progressed to review. There is a small budget of £500 allocated to any scrutiny review that is undertaken.
11. **Human Resources** – There are no Human Resources implications associated with the recommendations within this report however, should this topic be progressed to review implications may arise.
12. **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.

13. There are no other known implications associated with the recommendations within this report.

Risk Management

14. There are no known risks associated with the recommendations within this report.

Recommendations

15. Members are asked to:
- i. Consider whether they wish to progress this topic to review and if so;
 - ii. Consider scoping and timetabling the review at today's meeting
 - iii. Setting up a small cross-party task group to undertake the review

Reason: To address the topic set out in Annex 1 to this report

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Report Approved

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Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

Annex 1 Draft outline approach for a proposed scrutiny review on carers