
Health Scrutiny Committee

5th January 2009

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic & Legal Services

Health Scrutiny Networking

Summary

1. This report is to inform Members of the Committee about recent events attended by both Members and Officers outside of the formal meeting cycle of the Health Scrutiny Committee.

Background

2. Both Members and Officers attend events on a regular basis and in the past these have not been reported back to the Committee. Many of these events are directly linked with some of the work set out in the Committee's work plan.

Consultation

3. The following paragraphs detail the events and meetings that have taken place.
4. **Members' Visit to York Hospital (13.10.2008)**

Mike Proctor, the Deputy Chief Executive at York Hospital facilitated a tour of several areas of the Hospital for the benefit of Members of the Health Scrutiny Committee.

5. **Scrutinising Health Inequalities (07.11.2008)**

Cllr Morley attended this event organised by Minding the Gap in association with the Regional Health Scrutiny Network for Yorkshire & the Humber, with the support of the Centre for Public Scrutiny. The event covered the following topics:

- Why is effective scrutiny of health inequalities important?
- What are the challenges and how have they been tackled?
- What does effective scrutiny of health inequalities look like?

Councillor Morley made the following comment about the event:

'I attended a day in Leeds on Scrutinising Health Inequalities on 7th November 2008. The event was attended by Members and officers involved in Health Scrutiny. The attendance list is itself a reminder of the variety of different ways in

which Health Scrutiny is organised i.e. on its own, in association with Adult Social Services and “Social Care”. This was the theme of the day too. Research findings on how scrutiny works were presented, an overview of the regional experience from Geoff Ainsley and workshops on particular examples of practice. Scrutiny of Community Development in Health and Wellbeing in Leeds looked at projects promoting health through community projects (often well funded), a mini-scrutiny model from Doncaster where concentration on a small community with comparatively poor health outcomes was initiated/preceded by a pre-review set of questions for scrutiny members drawing on experience of local members and young peoples’ mental health from Sheffield. Geoff touched on some topics that hadn’t been looked at in the region –e.g. accidents, and suggested the value of some joint working (particularly on stretched health scrutiny budgets).’

6. **LINKs Facilitated Workshop (17.11.2008)**

Both the Chair of Health Scrutiny Committee and the Head of Democratic Services attended this meeting.

In April 2008, a new NHS patients and public involvement organisation, LINKs (Local Involvement Networks), came into being, replacing the former patient and public forums. Working with the Council’s Strategic Partnerships team, Health Scrutiny held a facilitated workshop on the 17th November, with health partners, the Council’s Adult Social Services, the LINKs host, North Bank Forum, and the recently appointed LINKs co-ordinator. The theme of the workshop was to clarify the respective roles and responsibilities of LINKs and Health Scrutiny and to forge effective relationships with NHS and social care commissioners and providers. Mike Grady, an Expert Adviser from the Centre of Public Scrutiny, facilitated the workshop.

A number of issues were identified during the course of the workshop, including:

- The need to co-ordinate the work programmes of the local authority Health Scrutiny Committee (OSC) and LINKs
- The need to avoid needless duplication of effort and to maximise the use of each others limited resources
- How any referrals from LINKs to Health Scrutiny might be handled
- How LINKs and the OSC could complement each others work
- How LINKs and the OSC can contribute and influence the PCT’s strategic commissioning objectives

Further follow-up work is intended early in the New Year.

7. **CFPS training day on the Darzi Report (10.12.2008)**

The Centre for Public Scrutiny had offered some free training to Health Scrutiny Committees across the country. It was the decision of the York Scrutiny Committee to ask for training on the Darzi Report and on world class commissioning. The session helped those that attended to understand the

context, the content and the implications of the Darzi report and the implications for their work in scrutinising health and social care in the future.

The training session also included information on world class commissioning. It is hoped that world class commissioning will deliver a more strategic and long-term approach to commissioning services, with a clear focus on delivering improved health outcomes. There are four key elements to the programme; a vision for world class commissioning, a set of world class commissioning competencies, an assurance system and a support and development framework.

A copy of the Darzi Report and further information on world class commissioning can be found on the Department of Health website:

www.dh.gov.uk

Options

8. This report is for information only.

Analysis

9. Members and Officers who undertake work in relation to Health Scrutiny attend many events outside of the Committee's formal meeting cycle. This report has been prepared for the purposes of transparency and information sharing.

Corporate Strategy

10. This relates to the following Corporate Value:
'Encouraging improvement in everything we do'.

Implications

11. There are no known Financial, Human Resources, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, Information Technology, Property or other implications associated with this report.

Risk Management

12. This report is for information only and there are no known risks associated with it.

Recommendations

13. Members are requested to:
 - i. Note the report

Reason: To keep Members informed of events attended that are relevant to Health Scrutiny.

Contact Details

Author:

Tracy Wallis
Scrutiny Officer
Scrutiny Services
01904 551714

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Quentin Baker
Head of Civic, Democratic & Legal Services
01904 551004

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Specialist Implications Officer(s)

None

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

None