

Feasibility Report – Maternity Matters

Summary

1. At a meeting on 8 July 2009 Councillor Wiseman indicated that she was considering submitting a scrutiny topic on improving care for newborns and new mothers. Members of the Committee indicated that this was potentially a good topic to review and subsequently, in October 2009, Councillor Wiseman submitted a topic registration form. This is attached at Annex A to this report.

Criteria

2. Councillor Wiseman has identified the following criteria as being relevant to this topic:
 - Public Interest (i.e. in terms of both proposals being in the public interest and resident perceptions)
 - In keeping with Corporate Priorities
 - National/local/regional significance e.g. A central government priority area, concerns joint working arrangements at a local 'York' or wider regional context
3. Councillor Wiseman also made the following additional comments on the topic registration form in support of the eligibility criteria:
 - **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 Department 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'.

Consultation

4. The following persons were consulted as part of the feasibility process and comments received are set out at Annex B to this report:
 - Executive Member for Children's Services
 - Director of Learning, Culture & Children's Services
 - Representatives of NHS North Yorkshire & York
 - Representatives of York Hospitals Foundation Trust
 - York LINK (Local Involvement Network)

Options

5. Members are asked to consider the following options:

Option A Progress the topic to review

Option B Do not progress this topic to review

Option C Receive a presentation from NHS North Yorkshire & York on the work being undertaken in this area.

Analysis

6. Based on the evidence provided in Annex B to this report the Committee are not advised to proceed with this review. NHS North Yorkshire & York are undertaking a piece of work that will culminate in a revised universal services model for 0-19 year olds and this work will take into account how health visiting services are provided in York.
7. There would seem little point in the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee duplicating the work of the Primary Care Trust (PCT) by undertaking a review at this stage. However, they may wish to receive a presentation from NHS North Yorkshire & York to find out more about the work they are undertaking on this subject. It is therefore recommended that the Committee choose Option C as set out in paragraph 5 of this report.
8. Should any review be undertaken it is recommended that the title be changed from 'Maternity Matters' to reflect the nature of the request for a review into the health visitor service, particular in relation to the service they offer to mothers and their babies from birth to six months.
9. Should Members choose to proceed with a review on this topic then a draft remit, scope and timetable will need to be produced. These should clearly define the aim and key objectives of the review. It is suggested that, should these be required, they be drafted at an informal meeting by a small cross-party task group and presented to a future meeting of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee for formal approval.

10. The topic registration form at Annex A suggests possible consultees and a time frame of 3 to 6 months to complete should the topic be progressed to review.
11. Members will also need to take into consideration commitments already in their work plan and decide where any review would be best placed.

Corporate Strategy 2009/2012

12. 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

13. **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 in the scrutiny budget to enable reviews to take place.
14. **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.
15. **Human Resources** – There are no known Human Resources implications associated with the recommendations within this report.
16. There are no known equalities, crime & disorder, information technology or property implications associated with the recommendations within this report.

Risk Management

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

Recommendations

18. Members of the Committee are advised to proceed with Option C and request that NHS North Yorkshire & York provide a presentation on the work they are undertaking in relation to this subject.

Reason: To address the concerns raised in the topic registration form.

Contact Details

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**Feasibility Study
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 A Topic Registration Form
Annex B Comments from consultees