



Introduction to Health Scrutiny

Cllr Tina Funnell - Chair

Barbara Boyce – Scrutiny Officer

What is Health Scrutiny about?

- Health Scrutiny “acts as a lever to improve the health of local people...and securing the continuous improvement of health services and services that impact on health”
(Department of Health)
- Who do we represent? As well as being the only truly democratic input into health provision, Health OSCs are one part of the framework for involving patients and the public in the NHS

Local NHS Structure

Other health bodies

Patients' Forums

PALS

ICAS

Chapter 10 Group

Non Exec Members of Trust Boards

Yorkshire and Humber SHA

North Yorkshire & York PCT

Healthcare Commission

York Hospitals NHS Trust

Yorkshire Ambulance Service

Other providers

Why do we do Health Scrutiny?

- Local Government Act 2000 gave members the power to scrutinise local services
- Health and Social Care Act 2001 gave members:
 - ◆ power to scrutinise local health services
 - ◆ right to make recommendations to NHS bodies
 - ◆ right to be consulted on major changes to health services
- Scrutiny members have had these responsibilities since January 2003

Who has the power of Health Scrutiny?

- All Social Services authorities must have a Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC)
- This OSC has powers to summon officers of health trusts to committee meetings, to require information from NHS bodies on the planning and provision of health services. It must be consulted by health trusts about significant changes to service provision
- Health OSCs also scrutinise local authority services that impact on the health of local communities.

Responding to consultations

- NHS bodies considering proposals for substantial variations in health services are required to consult the Health OSC of the relevant local authority.
- If these services cross local authority boundaries, Health OSCs must work together to respond to the proposals
- If a Health OSC decides that a variation in service is substantial it can, in some circumstances, refer it to the Secretary of State.

Other responsibilities

- Contributing each April to the Annual Health Check – the assessment process for all Health Trusts
- Working with the Council on the development of local involvement networks (LINKs)
- Developing skills and understanding of issues affecting the health of people in York.
- Communicating with colleagues from all Health Trusts that impact upon York, learning about their work and offering recommendations that will benefit those we represent.
- Working in partnership with other organisations that work to improve health in York.

Aims for the future?

- To do work which leads to improvements in the health of the people of York
- To develop relationships and work with partners
- To be an independent local voice for residents
- To be a positive and critical friend to local NHS organisations
- To work creatively to address public concerns about health
- To identify where Council policy can improve health

What we will not be

- A stick to beat NHS organisations
- Stuck in a party-political mould
- Always in formal meetings
- Concentrating on organisations rather than patients or the public
- Hindering innovation in the NHS
- Wasting times on things we can't change locally

Comment from your Chairman

I feel privileged to take over the Chair of this important statutory committee at a challenging time for both the Health Service and Local Government. We now have real opportunities to develop partnerships in service delivery which will benefit the people of York.

Most of my professional life over the last 25 years has been spent working with patient organisations and with national and regional health organisations so I am delighted to be able to use that experience in my new work as a councillor. I want to build bridges between our colleagues in health and voluntary organisations and the Council and also use our combined resources and skills to better serve the people of York.