

Extract from Report to Transformation and resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 26th March 2014

Health Scrutiny Committee

The Constitution Working Group has given consideration to the governance arrangements of the Health Scrutiny Committee. The Borough Council's current Health Scrutiny Committee consists of seven Members and does not have a Vice Chair. It is felt that there will be benefit to the democratic process if the membership of this committee is increased to eleven in line with the other scrutiny committees of the Council. The committee should also expand its remit to cover work areas where there is apparent duplication with the other Scrutiny Committees, in particular the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Communities Scrutiny Committee and the Active and Cohesive Scrutiny Committee. It should be noted that the Health Scrutiny Committee is technically a Joint Committee with the County Council and is subject to a 'Joint Code of Working Agreement' with them. There is one County Council representative on the committee and this arrangement would remain in place even if the total membership of the Borough's Health Scrutiny Committee was increased.

The Working Group has come to the view that the Health Scrutiny Committee should cover the topic of health improvement (currently with the Active and Cohesive Scrutiny Committee). The Group also felt that alcohol and drugs, from a public health perspective and sometimes considered by the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Communities Scrutiny Committee, should be solely within the remit of the Health Scrutiny Committee. Specific health issues relating to older people should also be covered by the Health Scrutiny Committee and removed from the remit of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Scrutiny Committee, with the Active and Cohesive Scrutiny Committee taking on issues relating to social and cultural aspects of older people. To better reflect this extended remit it is proposed that the Committee's name be changed to the Health and Well-Being Scrutiny Committee. The suggested terms of reference are set out below:

Health and Well-Being Scrutiny Remit

- Commissioning of and provision of health care services, whether acute or preventative/early intervention affecting residents of the borough of Newcastle under Lyme
- Staffordshire Health and Well Being Board and associated committees, sub-committees and operational/commissioning groups

- North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Staffordshire County Council Public Health
- University Hospital North Staffordshire (UHNS)
- Combined Healthcare and Stoke and Staffordshire NHS Partnership
- Health organisations within the Borough area such as GP surgeries
- NULBC Health and Well-Being Strategy and Staffordshire Health and Well Being Board Strategy 'Living Well in Staffordshire 2013-2018'
- Health Improvement (including but not exclusively) diet, nutrition, smoking, physical activity, poverty (including Poverty & Licensing Policy)
- Specific health issues for older people
- Alcohol and drug issues
- Formal consultations
- Local partnerships
- Matters referred direct from Staffordshire County Council
- Referring matters to Staffordshire County Council for consideration where a problem has been identified within the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- a) That the Health Scrutiny Committee expands its remit to include health improvement and alcohol and drug issues with new terms of reference agreed which should not contradict the Joint Code of Working with the County Council.
- b) That the Membership of the Committee is extended to 11 Members and that a Vice Chair is appointed.
- c) That Staffordshire County Council is notified of the new arrangements.
- d) That the Committee is renamed the 'Health and Well-Being Scrutiny Committee.'

Agreed by Transformation & Resources O & S Committee on 22.1.14 but further areas of scrutiny have since been added