

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Report of Corporate Director for Corporate Services
to

People Scrutiny Committees

9th July 2013

Report prepared by:
Fiona Abbott

Agenda
Item No.

14

Chairman's update A Part 1 Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

To update the Committee on some health scrutiny matters, and other scrutiny matters as follows:

- Remit of the Scrutiny Committee;
- Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2013 / 14;
- Introduction to health scrutiny;
- Draft Working Protocols; and
- Local and regional health scrutiny issues.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the report and any actions taken be noted.
- 2.2 To endorse the Scrutiny Committee Work Plan for 2013 / 14 attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 2.3 To note the Briefing Paper on Health, Public Health and Scrutiny at **Appendix 2**.
- 2.4 That the draft Working Protocols between the People Scrutiny Committee and Southend Clinical Commissioning Group and the People Scrutiny Committee and Healthwatch Southend attached at **Appendices 3 and 4** be agreed.

3. People Scrutiny Committee, Health Scrutiny role and Protocols

- 3.1 On 18th April 2013 the Council agreed some changes to its Constitution, which included some amendments to the Scrutiny Committees. The changes came into effect at the start of the new municipal year. The Scrutiny Committees have been re designated as:
 - People Scrutiny Committee;
 - Place Scrutiny Committee; and
 - Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.2 The remit of the People Scrutiny Committee is:
(Membership includes the statutory co-optees and other co-optees)
 - All Child and Adult Education
 - Youth Services
 - Children's Social Services,
 - Adult Social Services,
 - Health scrutiny role

- Public Health
 - Commissioning/Procurement for Children, Adults and Public Health.
- 3.3 The Committee Work Plan for 2013 / 14 is attached at **Appendix 1** for discussion and agreement. This work programme provides a framework of issues to be considered by the Scrutiny Committee during the ensuing year and will be reviewed and revised as necessary. In addition to the issues identified in the work programme, further issues which the Committee would like to consider and are asked to consider during the year, will be identified.¹
- 3.4 **Health scrutiny** – in May 2013 members received a Briefing Paper which provided information on the recent health scrutiny changes, the health system locally and also public health, following the recent legislative changes and changes to remit of the Scrutiny Committee. The Briefing Paper has been amended slightly and has been circulated again and is also attached at **Appendix 2**.
- 3.5 **Protocols** - The Health & Social Care Act 2012 introduced new organisations and bodies in the health care system. In April 2013, the former Community Services & Culture Scrutiny Committee agreed that new local Working Protocols needed to be developed between the:–
- (a) People Scrutiny Committee and the Southend Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG);
 - (b) People Scrutiny Committee and Healthwatch Southend; and
 - (c) Health & Wellbeing Board and the People Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.5.1 The first two Protocols have now been drafted and are attached at **Appendices 3 & 4**. The drafts have been shared with the Southend CCG and Healthwatch Southend respectively and any further comments received from the bodies will be reported verbally at the meeting. The Committee is asked to consider and agree the Protocols.
- 3.5.2 The Protocol between the Health & Wellbeing Board and the People Scrutiny Committee will be brought forward at a later date.

4. Local and Regional Health Scrutiny issues

- 4.1 **East of England Regional Chairs Forum** – The last meeting of the Forum was held on 1st March 2013 – information about this meeting was reported to the April 2013 meeting of the former Community Services & Culture Scrutiny Committee (Minute 933 refers). The Forum comprises the Health Scrutiny Committee Chairs from across the region and Councillor Kaye is the representative from Southend. A further meeting will be held later in the year.

One of the actions being taken forward on behalf of the Forum is for a regional workshop. The Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) asked each regional advocate to organise a short event aimed at supporting the development of relationships between health scrutiny and NHS England and Public Health England. The workshop will take place on 9th July 2013 in Peterborough and the Group Manager, Policy & Partnerships, Media & Communications and Information & Governance will be attending.

- 4.2 **SEPT and Hospital Trust - Quality Accounts 2012 / 13** – these were received from two health bodies during April and as time did not allow for full consideration, with the

¹ Elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting is information on the range of work undertaken by the former Scrutiny Committees during 2012 / 13.

agreement of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, the following response was submitted:

"In view of the timescales for submitting comments on the Quality Account for 2012-13, we wish to advise you that the People Scrutiny Committee will not be submitting a response. This should in no way be taken as a negative comment on the hard work and achievements of your organisation over the past year.

- 4.3 Joint working - A number of the issues on the Committee's work plan will be broader than Southend's boundaries (especially around NHS changes) and therefore be of interest to both Essex and Thurrock Scrutiny Committees too. There may be other agenda items and issues common to the Scrutiny Committees of all 3 authorities. Where this is the case, it may be advisable to hold a joint session or a joint Chairs' meeting.

In addition, officers from the three authorities will also hold regular meetings to co-ordinate work where relevant – e.g. it may be possible to highlight and share common issues this way without the need to hold a joint meeting. The Scrutiny Officer has already agreed a regular meeting with her equivalent in Thurrock to enable shared issues to be identified and discussed.

5. Corporate Implications

- 5.1 Contribution to Council's Vision and Critical Priorities – Becoming an excellent and high performing organisation.
- 5.2 Financial Implications - there are nominal costs involved in operating any Joint Committees and these are shared equally by the participating organisations involved across the region. The Council's contribution towards the costs can be met from the Council's scrutiny budget.
- 5.3 Legal Implications – none.
- 5.4 People Implications – none.
- 5.5 Property Implications – none.
- 5.6 Consultation – as described in report.
- 5.7 Equalities Impact Assessment – none.
- 5.8 Risk Assessment – none.

6. Background Papers –

Health Scrutiny Briefing Paper

Email to Members, co opted members – 21st May 2013

Update briefing paper – circulated 18th June 2013

Quality Account 2012 / 13

Email from SEPT on 25th April 2013, response sent 21st May 2013

Email from Hospital Trust on 30th April 2013, response sent on 20th May 2013

7. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Work Plan 2013 / 14

Appendix 2 – Briefing Paper

Appendix 3 - Draft Protocol - Scrutiny Committee and the Southend CCG

Appendix 4 – Draft Protocol – Scrutiny Committee and Healthwatch Southend