

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

Report of Corporate Director for Corporate Services

to

Chairmen's Scrutiny Forum

6

8th September 2015

Report prepared by:
Fiona Abbott

Relationship of health scrutiny & role of the Health & Wellbeing Board

A Part 1 Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 At its last meeting, the Forum discussed the relationship of health scrutiny at the People Scrutiny Committee and the role of the Health and Wellbeing Board (which is also a Committee of the Council). The Council's Scrutiny Officer agreed to undertake some research on this relationship in other local authorities.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

3. Background - position at Southend

- 3.1 The People Scrutiny Committee ('the Scrutiny Committee') is a Committee of Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and which acts as the Health Scrutiny Committee. The Scrutiny Committee fulfils the Council's responsibilities under 'The Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013' to have health scrutiny provision.
- 3.2 Guidance to support local authorities and their partners to deliver effective health scrutiny was published in June 2014¹. The "primary aim of health scrutiny is to act as a lever to improve the health of local people, ensuring their needs are considered as an integral part of the commissioning, delivery and development of health services".
- 3.3 The Scrutiny Committee has the power to hold NHS bodies to account for the quality of their services, through powers to obtain information, ask questions in public and make recommendations for improvements that have to be considered. The Scrutiny Committee can refer matters via full Council to the Secretary of State. All commissioners and providers of publicly funded health and social care are covered, as well as policies arising from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and Health & Wellbeing Strategy (HWBS).

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https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/324965/Local_authority_health_scrutiny.pdf

- 3.4 The Board is a strategic body - its role is to provide strategic leadership to the health and social care system and promote integration, collaboration and partnership working; oversee the production of the JSNA and HWBS which identifies and addresses the needs of the local population; and champion for change and lead community engagement.
- 3.5 The Scrutiny Committee has 17 Councillors and 5 co opted members appointed to it. The Board has 6 Members of the Council appointed to it and includes the Executive Councillor for Health & Adult Social Care (who Chairs the Board) and the statutory members appointed to it.
- 3.6 To help clarify the roles between health scrutiny and the Board, a protocol has been agreed, which provides a framework for beginning to explore the complementary roles and responsibilities of health scrutiny and Southend's Health & Wellbeing Board, on a practical level. This document was agreed by the People Scrutiny Committee in October 2014 and by the Board in January 2015².
- 3.7 Forum members will also be aware there has recently been an LGA peer challenge follow up of the Southend Health & Wellbeing Board. The outcomes from the review have been provided and this report does not seek to duplicate any of that work. The review findings are encouraging and positive and also did not identify any conflict or tensions with scrutiny. In response to peer review recommendations, the Board Chair is aiming to better define Board Membership roles, contribution and behaviours.

4. Other Local Authorities

- 4.1 In July, the Scrutiny Officer contacted Barbara Deacon, LGA south east Health & Wellbeing coordinator and is the Health and Wellbeing Board Development Manager at Brighton & Hove Council. Ms Deacon agreed to circulate information on our behalf to a number of local authorities.
- 4.2 19 authorities were contacted and asked to respond to a number of questions. A list of the Councils which were contacted and the questions asked is attached at **Appendix 1**. Replies were received from 7 authorities - see **Appendix 2**.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 For the most part the roles of health scrutiny and the Board are distinct and complimentary and avoid unnecessary overlap. In the future, if problems do emerge / if there is overlap, will need to address issues if this happens.

6. Corporate Implications

- 6.1 Contribution to Council's Vision and Critical Priorities – Becoming an excellent and high performing organisation.
- 6.2 Financial Implications – There are no financial implications arising from the contents of this report.
- 6.3 Legal Implications – none.
- 6.4 People Implications – none.
- 6.5 Property Implications – none.

² This can be found on the following link - please see [information about scrutiny at Southend](#)

- 6.6 Consultation – as described in report.
- 6.7 Equalities Impact Assessment – none.
- 6.8 Risk Assessment – none.

7. **Background Papers**

None.

8. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – local authorities contacted for the review

Appendix 2 – responses received

Local Authorities contacted for the review

The following Local Authorities were contacted:-

- Bracknell Forest (unitary)
- Brighton & Hove (unitary)
- Buckinghamshire County Council
- East Sussex County Council
- Hampshire County Council
- Isle of Wight (unitary)
- Kent County Council
- Medway (unitary)
- Oxfordshire County Council
- Portsmouth (unitary)
- Reading (unitary)
- Slough (unitary)
- Southampton (unitary)
- Surrey County Council
- West Sussex County Council
- West Berkshire (unitary)
- Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead (unitary)
- Wokingham (unitary)
- Wiltshire (unitary)

The authorities were asked the following:-

1. Type of Local Authority
2. Number of Councillors on the Committee which undertakes the health scrutiny role at the authority
3. Who chairs this Committee (which party)
4. Number of meetings held each Municipal Year
5. Membership of Health & Wellbeing Board including any non-statutory members
6. Who Chairs the Board (organisation)
7. Who has chaired the Board previously
8. Number of meetings held each Municipal Year
9. Does the scrutiny committee Chair (or nominee) attend the Health & Wellbeing Board in any capacity / official capacity
10. Are there agreed protocols in place between scrutiny and the Health & Wellbeing Board