

Recent publications from the Centre for Public Scrutiny

CfPS Annual Conference Report - 2013

CfPS celebrated its tenth anniversary with a conference that focused on the practical issues arising from major public sector reforms in health, local government and policing in particular. Although accountability and governance structures are in place, practice in these areas is still under development. [Download](#)

Scrutiny and NHS Health Check; Understanding data briefing

This briefing seeks to raise questions that other areas wishing to review their NHS Health Check service can use to help them understand their local data.

CfPS has been commissioned by Public Health England to work with five local areas to use scrutiny to understand levels of take up in their area and to suggest improvements including the 'costed and consequential' benefits using CfPS' return on investment model of scrutiny.

One of the biggest challenges for these councils has been access to (and understanding of) local data that can be used during the review and on which to base their return on investment calculations.

Therefore this briefing seeks to raise questions that other areas wishing to review their NHS Health Check service can use to help them understand their local data.

[Download](#)

Back to school

Ways for scrutiny to influence local education and support school leader to improve results

CfPS together with the Local Government Association launched their latest publication "Back to school: ways for overview and scrutiny to influence local education, support school leaders and help improve school results" that focuses on the role of council scrutiny within the evolving educational picture. [Download](#)

The CfPS expects to publish a number of practice guides in January 2014, covering the following matters:

- Drafting recommendations
- Pre-decision scrutiny
- Demonstrating the impact of your work
- Powers of call-in (supplemented by some more detailed volunteer work being carried out over the summer)
- Work programming / prioritising work
- Scoping
- Liaising with partners (getting information and making recommendations)
- Liaising with the executive (getting information and making recommendations)
- Triangulating evidence
- Managing work at committees
- Working with the public
- Getting all members involved
- Common approaches to methodologies for work
- Dealing with party politics
- Engaging with contentious issues
- Managing scrutiny on a limited resource