

Report to: Executive
Date: 16th October 2007
Report of: Executive Member for Health
Subject: District of Easington Health Group
Wards: All

1. **Purpose of Report.**

1.1 This report is intended to inform the Executive of proposals to re-launch the Council's Health Group under new Terms of Reference and Membership.

2. **Consultation.**

In preparing the document I have consulted with the following:

- Management Team; and the
- Public Health Consultant, County Durham Primary Care Trust.

3.0 **Background.**

3.1 A Corporate Health Group was established in 1999 to lead on health issues for the Council and to facilitate joint working with the (then) Easington Primary Care Trust and other interested parties.

3.2 Since early 2006 meetings of the Health Group have been effectively suspended due to the reconfiguration process of the County's five Primary Care Trusts (PCT) into a single County Durham PCT. Also over this period the County Council's Social Services functions have also been restructured into Children and Young People Services and Adult and Community Services.

3.3 The Government's White Paper 'Our Care Our Say' (January 2006) included specific reference to local government doing more to tackle inequalities and improve access to health services, and to ensure that resources are directed more towards a health improvement agenda. This theme was also evident in the 2006 Local Government White Paper 'Strong and Prosperous Communities'. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill will give legislative effect to many of both White Papers proposals, including placing new duties on Local Authorities (upper tier) to:

- Foster greater patient and public involvement, both in the NHS and in adult and community services, through such arrangements as Local Involvement Networks (LINKS); and
- Co-operate with PCTs to in producing a joint strategic needs assessment of the health and social care needs for their local areas.

4.0 **Role of the Health Group.**

4.1 The refreshed Health Group will provide a means by which the Council can contribute to the Government's objectives regarding the development of health and social care services and greater public involvement.

4.2 More particularly, it will have a specific responsibility for:

- Overseeing at a corporate level the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan priorities in relation to the *Building Healthy Communities* objective;
 - Acting as a 'conduit' for discussions with partner organisations who will deliver health, social care and related support services in East Durham; and
 - Support the Council's contribution to the work of the East Durham Local Strategic Partnership's Health Improvement Group.
- 4.3 A revised Terms of Reference for the Group has been prepared to reflect the changes in its remit and membership. This is attached at Appendix 1. It proposed that the membership would comprise the Executive Members for Health, Liveability and Social Inclusion & Culture reflecting Corporate Plan's Health commitments and the Council's two Scrutiny Committee representatives on the Joint County Durham Health Scrutiny Committee. Other standing Members would include County Durham Primary Care Trust (Public Health and Patient Advisory and Liaison Service) and Durham County Council (Adult & Community Services).
- 4.4 The operation of the Group will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Framework for Partnership Working.

5. **Implications.**

Financial

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

Legal/Policy Implications.

- 5.2 There are no direct legal or policy implications associated with this report.

Risk Assessment.

- 5.3 There are no significant risks associated with this report.

Communications.

- 5.4 There are no external public communication issues arising from this report, though the Group will have regard to communication issues related to health and social care well being issues and public health improvement matters that might impact on communities and residents within East Durham.

6. **Corporate Implications**

Equality and Diversity.

- 6.1 The Group's forward work plan will give attention to the equality, equity and diversity impacts of health and social care service provision within the district.

Other Implications.

- 6.2 There are no significant e-government, procurement, human resource or other policy implications issues associated with this report.

7. **Recommendation**

- 7.1 That the Executive agrees the Terms of Reference for Council's Health Group as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Background Papers.

Department of Health, White Paper 'Our Care Our Say' (January 2005)
 Department of Communities and Local Government, White Paper 'Strong and Prosperous Communities' (October 2006).

District of Easington Council Health Group

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. **Aim of the Group**

To deliver the Council's Corporate Objective of 'Building a Healthy Community' and so contribute to the Council's Vision 'to make the District Great'.

2. **Key Functions**

- Develop an understanding of the critical issues surrounding the key determinants of health and health improvement so as to promote the health and well being of residents of the District.
- Develop a work programme related to the achievement of the planned outcomes of the Council's Corporate Plan in respect of Building a Healthy Community
- Champion the health & well being needs of the District's residents to appropriate organisations and agencies and contribute to the development of strategies related to Health, Social Care and Housing Support Services
- Act as the Council's principal body for consideration of consultations received from other organisations and agencies in respect of health and social care services.
- Coordinate the Council's input into, and engagement with the East Durham Local Strategic Partnership's Health Improvement Group.
- Advise the Council's Executive and Scrutiny Management Board on significant Health related issues that impact on the life of residents of the District

3. **Governance Arrangements**

The Group will be chaired by the Council's Executive Member for Health and comprise:

Executive Member for Liveability
Executive Member for Social Inclusion & Culture

Easington District Council representatives on the County Durham Joint Health Scrutiny Committee (2 members)

County Durham Primary Care Trust, (Public Health and Patient Advisory and Liaison Service).
Durham County Council (Adult & Community Services)

Senior Officers from the Regeneration and Development and Community Services Directorates

Other Executive Members and representatives from of other organisations will be invited as necessary to assist the Group with the consideration of matters under discussion.

Secretariat support to the Group will be provided by Housing Services and meetings will normally be held bi-monthly at the District Council Offices.