

Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

18 January 2019



Proposed scrutiny review of GP Service provision across County Durham – Scoping document

Report of Corporate Management Team

Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and Partnerships

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To advise the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the proposed scoping document in respect of the Scrutiny Review of GP Service provision across County Durham.

Executive summary

- 2 During the course of 2018/19 the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee have been informed and engaged in respect of a number of applications to review, merge or close GP branch services across County Durham. Recent examples include Byers Green Branch Surgery, Skerne Medical Group, Shotton Medical Practice and Station Road Surgery and New Seaham Medical Group.
- 3 During consideration of the Skerne Medical Group proposals, the Committee expressed its ongoing concern regarding the provision of and access to GP services across County Durham and to this end agreed to undertake a review on the issue.
- 4 This report details the proposed scoping document, terms of reference and meetings project plan in respect of the review.

Recommendation

- 5 Members of the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to receive this report and consider, comment and agree to the proposed scoping document, terms of reference and project plan for the review.

Background

- 6 The Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee have been engaged in a number of consultation and engagement processes undertaken by GP practices which involve a range of issues including reductions in practice branch sites, reductions in pharmacy/dispensing provision and branch closures. During these processes, the Committee have become increasingly concerned at the issues involving GP recruitment, retention, retirement and other workforce related pressures that are impacting on the level of service provision available to residents within County Durham.
- 7 There are concerns, nationally, regionally and locally about the falling number of GPs, the availability of GP appointments, the number of GP practices that are accepting new patients, the range of services available from GP practices, and the reduction in the number of GP branch sites.

Considerations

- 8 A proposed scoping document, terms of reference and meetings project plan have been developed for the review and is attached to this report (Appendix 2) and members of the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider, comment and agree to the proposed scope for the review.

Main implications

Legal

- 9 This report has been produced in accordance with the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and wellbeing boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 as they relate to the National Health Service Act 2006 governing the local authority health scrutiny function.

Conclusion

- 10 In view of the Committee's previous concerns regarding the provision of and access to GP services across County Durham and the recommendation to undertake a review of GP Service provision across County Durham, the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is invited to agree the proposed review scoping document.

Background papers

- None

Other useful documents

- Department of Health Local Authority Health Scrutiny Guidance
June 2014

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

This report has been produced in accordance with the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and wellbeing boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 as they relate to the National Health Service Act 2006 governing the local authority health scrutiny function.

Finance

Not applicable

Consultation

Not applicable.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Not applicable

Human Rights

Not applicable

Crime and Disorder

Not applicable

Staffing

Not applicable

Accommodation

Not applicable

Risk

Not applicable

Procurement

Not applicable

**Appendix 2: Proposed Scrutiny Review of GP Service provision
across County Durham – Scoping Document**

Attached as a separate document.