

Better Health Programme Joint Health Scrutiny Committee



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10 July 2017

Proposed re-designation of the Better Health Programme Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

Report of Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer, Durham County Council

Purpose of the Report

- 1 This report invites members to agree to the re-designation of the Better Health Programme Joint Health Scrutiny Committee previously established under the provisions of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 to incorporate joint local authority scrutiny of the Durham, Darlington and Teesside, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Sustainability and Transformation Plan and any associated service review proposals.

Background

- 2 During 2016 the establishment of the Better Health Programme Joint Health Scrutiny Committee was agreed consisting of representatives from each of Darlington Borough Council, Durham County Council, North Yorkshire County Council, Hartlepool Borough Council, Middlesbrough Borough Council, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council and Stockton-upon-Tees Borough Council.
- 3 To date, the Better Health Programme Joint Health Scrutiny Committee has met on 7 occasions to consider proposals being developed under the programme.

Sustainability and Transformation Plans

- 4 In December 2015, the NHS shared planning guidance 2016/17 – 2020/21 outlined a new approach to help ensure that health and care services were built around the needs of local populations. To do this, every health and care system in England, involving local organisations such as NHS providers, commissioners, and local authorities, were asked to produce a multi-year Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP), showing how local services

would evolve and become sustainable over the next five years – ultimately delivering the NHS Five Year Forward View vision of better health, better patient care and improved NHS efficiency

- 5 The North East is covered by two separate STPs. The Northumberland, Tyne and Wear and North Durham STP and the Durham, Darlington and Teesside, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby STP.
- 6 The Durham, Darlington and Teesside, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby STP covers the footprint of the Better Health Programme.
- 7 NHS system leaders met to discuss how best to create these plans, reflecting on the work that has already been developed in a number of areas across the North East and Cumbria and the STP draft documents were submitted to NHS England in October 2016.
- 8 The two draft STPs were published in November 2016.

Implications for the Better Health Programme of STP Development

- 9 During consideration of the Better Health Programme development and associated proposals by the Better Health Programme Joint Health Scrutiny Committee, a number of presentations have been given in respect of the emerging Durham Darlington and Teesside, Hambleton Richmondshire and Whitby Sustainability and Transformation Plan.
- 10 The Joint Committee have been advised that the work undertaken as part of the Better Health programme features within the STP as part of the “Quality of Care in our hospitals” theme as well as the “Health and care in communities and neighbourhoods” and that there will be a statutory requirement for consultation in respect of the draft STP.
- 11 Accordingly, the Better Health Programme Joint Health Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider the potential for the Committee’s remit to be broadened to include the draft STP documents and any associated proposals for significant developments or service variations arising therefrom.

Redesignation of the former Better Health Programme Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

- 12 In view of the integration of the Better Health Programme and the Durham Darlington and Teesside, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby STP, it is proposed that the Better Health Programme Joint Health OSC be re-designated the Durham, Darlington and Teesside Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Sustainability and Transformation Plan Joint Scrutiny Committee.
- 13 In accordance with the regulations detailed within this report, the new Joint Committee will be the vehicle through which the respective local authorities will respond to the consultation.
- 14 Accordingly, it is for individual member council’s designated Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to provide information and representations in respect of any consultation as it impacts upon their residents to the Joint Health OSC via its nominated representatives.

- 15 The protocol and terms of reference for the revised Joint Health Scrutiny Committee have been drafted by health scrutiny officers across the respective local authorities setting out the updated role and function of the joint committee as well as the proposed representation required from each council. These are attached to this report (Appendix 2).
- 16 It is proposed that the councils' representatives appointed to the Better Health Programme Joint Health OSC would assume the positions on the re-designated Durham, Darlington, and Teesside, Hambleton Richmondshire and Whitby Sustainability and Transformation Plan Joint Health Scrutiny Committee.

Provisions for consultation and engagement of Overview and Scrutiny Committees

- 17 The Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Board and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 require the formation of a joint scrutiny arrangement, where an NHS body or relevant health service provider consults more than one local authority on proposals to make substantial variations or developments to services. They provide that all the local authorities whose residents receive such services must participate in the joint scrutiny arrangement for the purpose of responding to the consultation, using the method most appropriate to the areas and issues being considered.
- 18 A local authority can opt-out if, having considered the information provided by the NHS body or relevant health service provider proposing the service change, they determine that the proposal is not "substantial" for their residents. Where a local authority opts out in this way, they will relinquish the power to refer the proposed change to the Secretary of State for the purposes of that particular consultation.
- 19 Only the joint scrutiny committee may require the organisation proposing the change to provide information to them, or attend before them to answer questions. That organisation is under a duty to comply with these requirements. If a local authority has opted out of the joint arrangement, they may not request information or attendance from the NHS body or relevant health service provider proposing the change. Failure by an NHS body or relevant health service provider to provide information requested by a local authority who is not participating in the joint scrutiny process and who is therefore not entitled to that information does not constitute a failure to consult that authority and is therefore not a valid reason for a referral to be made to Secretary of State.
- 20 They may not participate further in the joint scrutiny arrangements, unless changes occur during the development of proposals that make the impact substantial for residents in the local authority's area. The local authority, in these cases, should not expect to revisit any matters that the joint committee has already considered.
- 21 In scrutinising the proposals, the joint committee should aim to consider the proposal from the perspectives of all those affected or potentially affected by that proposal. The provisions of co-option set out above apply, enabling the involvement of district councils in the scrutiny process.

- 22 Only the joint scrutiny arrangement can then make a report and recommendations back to the organisation proposing the change. The power to refer to Secretary of State should only be exercised once the NHS body or relevant health service provider proposing the service change has responded to the comments of the joint scrutiny committee and all forms of local resolution have been exhausted. However, it can be exercised by any of local authorities originally consulted or by the joint arrangement where the power to refer has been delegated to it.
- 23 This joint committee does not have the power of referral to the Secretary of State delegated to it and it is proposed that the re-designated committee will not have this power either.

Recommendations and reasons

- 24 The Better Health Programme Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:-
- (a) Receive and comment upon the information detailed within the report;
 - (b) Agree to the re-designation of the Better Health Programme Joint Health OSC to the Durham, Darlington and Teesside, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee under the terms of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 as set out in this report;
 - (c) Agree the proposed protocol, terms of reference and membership of the re-designated Joint Health Scrutiny Committee.

Background papers

None

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance - None

Staffing - None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty - None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder - None

Human Rights - None

Consultation – None

Procurement - None

Disability Issues - None

Legal Implications – None