



Title	Health Scrutiny
For further information about this report please contact:	Richard Hall (01926 - 456700)
Service Area:	Environmental Services
Wards of the District directly affected	All
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of <i>Schedule 12A</i> of the <i>Local Government Act 1972</i>, following the <i>Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006</i>:	No
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number:	
Background Papers:	

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	Yes

Officer/Councillor Approval		
With regard to officer approval all reports <i>must</i> be approved by the report authors relevant director, Finance, Legal Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder(s).		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive	26/11/2012	Chris Elliott
CMT	26/11/2012	
Deputy Chief Executive	26/11/2012	Bill Hunt
Section 151 Officer	26/11/2012	Mike Snow
Legal	26/11/2012	
Finance	26/11/2012	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder	26/11/2012	Councillor Michael Coker
Consultation Undertaken		
Final Decision?	Not Applicable	

1. SUMMARY

This report recommends a Health Scrutiny Partnership protocol and committee arrangements for scrutiny of health service delivery.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Protocol, as set out in the Appendix, is adopted.
- 2.2 To recommend to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that they form a sub-committee, the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee, to operate in accordance with the protocol as above, in addition to any other work it is considered appropriate for it to deal with.
- 2.3 That the Health Forum be discontinued.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Changes to the health service come into effect on 1st April 2013. The Public Health function has been transferred to Local Government at County Council and Unitary Authority level. The Warwickshire Health & Wellbeing Board will have formal duties across a range of health service work, including the Public Health function.
- 3.2 The county council Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will have a role in scrutinising the work of the Health & Wellbeing Board and health service delivery in the county.
- 3.3 There is an expectation that Districts & Boroughs will also have a part to play in health scrutiny and there has been a pilot project to investigate how this can be most effectively achieved. As a result of this pilot a protocol has been drawn up. This is to ensure clarity of roles and responsibilities. Executive are asked to agree to this protocol.
- 3.4 There is limited time resource available, from both Members and Officers, to support additional committee work. The work of the Health Forum was, to some extent, a health scrutiny role and it is therefore considered that this could be disbanded. The work from Health Forum and the additional scrutiny role is therefore considered to be most effectively delivered through a sub-committee of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

4. POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 4.1 Health and Wellbeing is a cross-cutting theme of the Fit for the Future programme. The creation of an effective health scrutiny committee will help to ensure that it is properly embedded in the Council's service delivery.

5. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

- 5.1 There are no additional resources available for this activity. As proposed it is intended that the work will be delivered within existing budgets.

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 We could choose not to alter current arrangements. However, an opportunity would be missed to put in place proper arrangements to deal with changes taking place in the health service. Failure to effectively respond will leave the Council vulnerable to challenge on the way in which we engage with the new health agenda.
- 6.2 The limited resources of the Committee Services Team to support this function mean that any new areas of work will impact upon the availability of the team to deliver the current services. This meant it would not be possible to support an additional Scrutiny Committee and it is currently felt that a significant amount of the work will be brought through the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in considering Executive reports and through County Council Scrutiny work.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1 In line with the changes to health arrangements brought about by the Health and Social Care Act 2012, all parties recognise the roles that all local authorities, including Borough and District councils and Local Involvement Networks (LINKs), which will become Healthwatch from April 2013, can play in scrutinising and improving the health and wellbeing of Warwickshire residents.
- 7.2 The purpose of the protocol is to provide a mutually agreed framework for relationships between Warwickshire County Council, North Warwickshire Borough Council, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Rugby Borough Council, Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Warwick District Council and Warwickshire LINK, in the overview and scrutiny of health in Warwickshire.
- 7.3 Within the council's own Fit for the Future programme a Health & Wellbeing Delivery Plan is to be agreed. With the increased importance of the health agenda to this Council, it is considered that there is a greater need for scrutiny of the Council's own performance in relation to Health & Wellbeing.

PROTOCOL FOR HEALTH PARTNERSHIP SCRUTINY IN WARWICKSHIRE

Introduction

1. Warwickshire County Council has an Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to carry out the health scrutiny role set out for top tier authorities in legislation.
2. In line with the changes to health arrangements brought about by the Health and Social Care Act 2012, all parties recognise the roles that all local authorities, including Borough and District councils and Local Involvement Networks (LINKs), which will become Healthwatch from April 2013, can play in scrutinising and improving the health and wellbeing of Warwickshire residents.
3. The purpose of this protocol is to provide a mutually agreed framework for relationships between Warwickshire County Council, North Warwickshire Borough Council, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Rugby Borough Council, Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Warwick District Council and Warwickshire LINK, in the overview and scrutiny of health in Warwickshire.

Relationships

4. This protocol acknowledges the continuing development of partnership working between health organisations and local authorities, particularly between the NHS and the County Council's People Group. It therefore recognises the need to maintain a distinction between operational and scrutiny relationships, while working on the basis that scrutiny should contribute positively to relationships and health and wellbeing improvement.
5. The basis for the links between partner scrutiny committees is to ensure a clear and agreed oversight of the work programmes of all committees to avoid duplication, to work together where common issues have been identified for scrutiny and to agree common themes for tackling health inequalities and improving health and wellbeing for all residents of Warwickshire.
6. In order to discharge the levels of responsibility:
 - (a) **The County Council scrutiny activity** – this will be undertaken by the Warwickshire Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The membership of this committee is ten County Councillors, whose appointment takes account of political balance, and five District/Borough Councillors (one from each of the District/Borough areas within Warwickshire), nominated annually. Since this will constitute five separate appointments, political balance is not an issue. The Warwickshire Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be administered by the County Council and operate in accordance with the County Council's Constitution, Committee procedures and rules. The Chair and Vice Chair will be appointed by the County Council. Guidance for all Members may be sought from the Senior Democratic Services Officer. The Senior Democratic Services Officer will ensure that there is opportunity for appropriate links with officers of all

the District/Borough Councils. For this purpose, an officer group will be formed and have its own terms of reference.

- (b) **District and Borough scrutiny activity** – this will be undertaken by the appropriate scrutiny arrangement set up and resourced locally.

7. It is recognised that the choice of topics for scrutiny lies with the appropriate Committee, but that the planning and co-ordination of scrutiny activity is important in regard to assuring the quality of scrutiny activity and making the best use of resources. In order to avoid duplication/overload, the following principles are accepted:
 - (a) That the Committees will develop their approach to involving interested parties and the public in the preparation of their annual work programmes, including each other.
 - (b) It is accepted that a degree of flexibility within work programmes is required to adapt to unforeseen issues arising.
 - (c) Where appropriate, a joint meeting between the County Council and one or more of the District/Borough Councils will be held to scrutinise health issues. The agreement to hold joint meetings will lie with the appropriate Chairs.
8. When undertaking scrutiny activity, District/Borough Councillors and County Councillors will be the prime link for keeping each other up-to-date about progress and final recommendations. However, in addition, it is agreed that the notification of the publication of agendas, reports and minutes of County Council and District/Borough Councils in relation to health scrutiny will be shared through Scrutiny/Committee officers.
9. It will be the responsibility of the Committee producing/receiving the final report to take follow-up action.
10. All Councils accept and agree to participate in appropriate officer meetings to maintain good communications and management of their work programmes.
11. The resourcing of joint work on matters of common interest, including training and development, will be agreed on a case-by-case basis.