



Health Scrutiny Panel

26 June 2008

Rm M72, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Mulberry Place

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## **Agenda Item 7. Health Scrutiny Work Programme for 2008/09 Discussion Paper**

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Health Scrutiny is a statutory duty on local authorities with social care responsibilities. Its aim is to enable elected members to exercise their community leadership role in tackling the root causes of ill-health in our communities. In particular for Members to provide a strategic perspective in ensuring the accountability of health service providers as a way of improving the overall health and wellbeing of local people.

Health Scrutiny is empowered through government legislation and its remit and role has been increasing since it was introduced through the Local Government Act of 2000 and Health & Social Care Act 2001. In line with legislative guidance the Health Scrutiny Panel in Tower Hamlets is set up as a sub-committee of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. There are also related responsibilities on the NHS to facilitate Health Scrutiny for example the requirement to consult on changes to service provision and for Trusts to present their self-assessments against the Healthcare Commission's Core Standards to the Health Scrutiny Panel.

To make the most of this duty and associated powers, each year the Health Scrutiny Panel agrees a work programme outlining the key issues, reports and activities to be undertaken and reviewed by the Panel during the municipal year. This year we would like to use part of the Health Scrutiny induction programme to discuss issues that have been identified as potential work programme items. These have been drawn up from a general horizon-scanning exercise looking at local health issues and or have been suggested by NHS Partners. The long list is set out in Table 1.

The Draft Health Scrutiny Protocol suggests key selection criteria for the work programme and it would be useful for Members to consider these in looking at the list of issues. It is also a key role of the Health Scrutiny Panel to respond to community concerns over health service provision as they arise during the municipal year and the work programme will need to remain sufficiently flexible so as to include issues as and when required.

Members are asked to review the issues that have been identified and or to suggest further items for inclusion in the work programme.

### **Health Scrutiny Work Programme Selection Criteria**

Health Scrutiny topics will be prioritised against defined criteria to ensure that the work is of strategic importance in improving the health of local people and that it adds value and is an area in which it can make a significant impact.

Topics for Health Scrutiny will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Is a substantial variation in service provision
- Assists in tackling an area of poor or challenging performance
- Assists with sustaining high performance that has a high priority within Local Area Agreement
- Addresses an area of national policy development that has significant implications for the NHS or the Council and where member input would be valuable
- Relates to a planned service inspection and member input would be valuable in providing a robustness test before inspection (or submission of self-assessment)
- Issue identified by Councillors based on their community leadership role in surgeries or through experience as Elected Members.
- To help address a gap between community perception or concern and objective performance by utilising the members' leadership role
- Issue has high risk impact on equality / health and safety

Topics for Health Scrutiny should be assessed for:

- Area of benefit (eg ward, LAP, borough or number of people that will benefit)
- Significant budget commitment (by Council or partners)
- Council's partners have identified areas or services which are in need of joint attention.

## Health Scrutiny Panel Work Programme - Key Issues

Table 1

Issue / Topic / Activity	Comments	Method
Visits to each of the NHS Trusts	Requested by Trusts and Members as a learning and development tool to support the work of Health Scrutiny	Induction programme
Tobacco Cessation Review Update	Review progress against action plan taking forward the recommendations from the review	Challenge Session
Health Scrutiny Commentary on Trust performance as part of the Annual Health Check	A key role of the Health Scrutiny Panel – review weighting of Health Scrutiny commentary in 2007/08 by the Healthcare Commission	Presentation by Healthcare Commission / workshop session
Commissioning Intentions	Report from Tower Hamlets Primary Care Trust on areas of expenditure on health services	Report
Development of Joint Commissioning	Council and NHS plans on Joint Commissioning were referred to Health Scrutiny in 2007/08. Members expressed an interest and wanted to be kept informed of emerging plans for joint commissioning across health and social care services.	Briefing Paper
Local Implementation plans for Healthcare for London	NHS London is expected to respond to Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee review of Healthcare for London. Detailed proposals for local implementation plans are expected in 2008/09	Regular Update Reports from the PCT Challenge Session – seeking contributions from all three Trusts
Adult Protection Annual Report	Referred to Health Scrutiny by Adult Health & Wellbeing	Report
Patient Involvement &	Common practice by some other local authority	Report

Complaints Information	health scrutiny panels. Could add value in the long-term to identifying issues for future work programmes and support the development of Health Scrutiny Commentary during Annual Health Check	
Update on contract management and performance issues at St Pauls Way Health Centre	Members requested Challenge Session last year and it is an issue which has been raised as an area of concern by local residents.	Report / Challenge Session
Health Scrutiny Spotlight	Replicating Overview and Scrutiny good practice in engagement between Scrutiny and Cabinet on Health portfolio.	Spotlight session at Panel meeting
Planning gains / S106 contributions for Health	Reviewing effectiveness of arrangements to secure benefits related to health from S106 contributions.	Report
End of Life Care	Panel received a report on service developments in 2007/08 and this was raised as a potential review topic for 2008/09. Lesser profile as a key area of health service provision, potential for exploring the wide range of community needs at end of life and how these are being met.	In-depth review / Challenge Session
Coronary Heart Disease	Identified as part of the four year work programme by Members in 2006. Key area of public health challenge and investment by NHS, important in terms of strategic targets on life expectancy for the Council and Tower Hamlets Primary Care Trust	In-depth review