

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY - HEALTH COMMITTEE**

1 December 2014

Report of the Director of Legal Services

WORK PROGRAMME to March 2015

1. Purpose of the Report

To consider the Improvement and Scrutiny – Health Committee’s continuing work programme up to March 2015.

2. Information

The Committee will continue to respond to service reconfiguration proposals introduced by the county’s health service commissioners and providers.

In order for the Committee to undertake its responsibilities effectively, Members have identified a need for an exchange of information between the Committee and the numerous service commissioning and providing organisations operating throughout Derbyshire.

The Chair and Vice Chair, along with the Improvement and Scrutiny Officer, already hold regular meetings with local CCGs and Derbyshire Community Health Services (the major provider of hospital and clinical care) to ensure that this Committee receives appropriate information on health service issues that impact on local communities.

Two developments have occurred since the last meeting of this Committee, details are as follows;

2.1 Arrangements for Health Scrutiny in the “Healthier Together” Programme (High Peak area)

The County Council has been invited to join the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) Joint Health Scrutiny Committee. This Committee, comprising membership from the ten Authorities in the Greater Manchester area, has been established with the specific remit to carry out Joint Scrutiny as required in accordance with the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013.

The provision of many health services to communities in the High Peak area is commissioned by the Greater Manchester Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). They are formed together as “Committees in Common” and are

currently promoting their “Healthier Together” programme which will involve the reconfiguration of hospital services across the Manchester area. The programme will have an impact on the provision of hospital services for patients in the High Peak area and this requires Derbyshire County Council to have a Member on the Joint Committee to participate in the scrutiny of the proposed major service reconfigurations. The Cabinet Member – Strategic Policy and Budget, has approved the appointment of Cllr. Caitlin Bisknell who is now participating in the meetings of the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee, supported by the Improvement and Scrutiny Officer. Cllr Bisknell will report back to this Committee on developments affecting communities in the High Peak when appropriate.

2.2 East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS)

The Improvement and Scrutiny (I & S) Officer has been liaising with EMAS managers to help develop communications between EMAS and the Health Scrutiny Committee. EMAS, as its name suggests, covers a wide geographical area over 5 counties. The scrutiny of its service falls to 5 County Councils as well as Unitary City Councils.

In discussing the Health Scrutiny function and the obligation of EMAS to inform this Committee of major issues affecting service delivery, the I & S Officer has requested the opportunity for Members to learn more about the service and the challenges it currently faces. EMAS will ensure that the Committee is involved in any consultation on service transformation proposals at an early stage and will respond to requests for information, particularly on performance issues.

To help understand the service in operational detail, arrangements will be made for this Committee to;

- (a) Visit the EMAS Dispatch (Call Centre) and observe operators dealing with calls for assistance
- (b) Accompany ambulance staff on their call-outs to observe the service in action.

These visits will take place in the New Year.

3. On-going Work Programme

Although the majority of Health Scrutiny work is focussed on external service provision and its work programme is considerably influenced by the Health service community, the Committee will also undertake reviews of other service areas as appropriate.

The Committee was scheduled to undertake a review of the Derbyshire Health and Wellbeing Board. This proposal was deferred pending the outcome of the

recent LGA Peer Review of the Health and Wellbeing Board, the findings of which are due to be published in December.

It is proposed that the Health Scrutiny Committee directs its review of the Health and Wellbeing Board in the light of the LGA Peer Review, particularly in respect of overseeing the implementation of any changes to the way in which the Board operates.

The work programme for the Committee for its meeting in March 2015 is set out below;

Meeting date		Lead officer
16 March	Review of Immunisation – Final Report	JW
	Derbyshire Community Health Services – Draft Quality Account	DCHS
	Observational visits to EMAS – feedback report	JW
	Healthwatch Derbyshire	Helen Hart (Healthwatch)
	Reports submitted by Commissioners/Providers and Public Health	

4. Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: financial, human relations, legal and human rights, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

5. Officer's Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note the work programme up to March 2015.

John McElvaney
Director of Legal Services