



**North
Somerset**
COUNCIL



Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 23rd October 2017

Report of: Service Director, Legal and Democratic Services, Bristol City Council

Title: Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Business Report

Ward: Citywide

Officer Presenting Report: Louise deCordova, Scrutiny Advisor

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Recommendation

It is recommended that the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1. appoint a chair
2. agree the proposed chairing arrangements for future meetings
3. note the Joint Committee's terms of reference and working arrangements as set out in the appendices.
4. consider the invitation of co-optees or involvement of other stakeholders

Summary

A statutory Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) has been established for the purpose of jointly scrutinising the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Sustainability Transformation Plans (BNSSG STP). The JHOSC's terms of reference and working arrangements (as set out at Appendices 1 and 2 respectively) were considered by the Chairs of the North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Bristol People Scrutiny Committee. After consideration of the relevant regulations, it was the view of the Chairs that a new joint committee be established specifically to scrutinise the STP.

Context

Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs)

STPs are a new approach to planning health and care services across England over the next five years. Local organisations are required to work together to develop a shared understanding of the challenges and to agree joint plans for addressing these.

The principal aims are to:

- Improve the health and wellbeing of local people;
- Improve the quality of local health and care services;
- Deliver financial stability and balance throughout the local health care system.

Locally, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) are working together.

Statutory joint health scrutiny arrangements

Regulation 30 of the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 requires local authorities to appoint “mandatory” joint committees where a relevant NHS body or health service provider consults more than one local authority’s health scrutiny function about “substantial reconfiguration” proposals. In such circumstances, Regulation 30 sets out the following requirements:

- Only the joint committee may respond to the consultation (i.e. rather than each individual local authority responding separately);
- Only the joint committee may exercise the power to require the provision of information by the relevant NHS body or health service provider about the proposal;
- Only the joint committee may exercise the power to require members or employees of the relevant NHS body or health service.

Regulation 30 of the Local Authority also provides that local authorities may appoint a “discretionary” joint health overview and scrutiny committee to carry out all or specified health scrutiny functions. Establishing a joint committee of this kind does not prevent individual Councils from separately scrutinising health issues (i.e. non mandatory). There are likely to be occasions when consideration of a non-mandatory item of the STP is best dealt with by a discretionary joint committee.

Proposal

It is recommended that the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

1. Appoint a Chair

The Joint Committee is asked to appoint a Chair from the host authority for the purpose of chairing this meeting.

2. Agree the proposed chairing arrangements for future meetings

The Joint Committee is asked to agree the proposed chairing arrangements for future meetings.

- a. October 2017 – Bristol City Council
- b. February 2018 – North Somerset Council
- c. June 2018 – South Gloucestershire Council

3. Note the Joint Committee’s Terms of Reference and Working Arrangements

The Joint Committee is asked to note the Terms of Reference and Working Arrangements as set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.

4. Consider the invitation of co-optees or involvement of other stakeholders

The Joint Committee is asked to consider the invitation of co-optees as one method of ensuring involvement of key stakeholders with an interest in, or knowledge of, the issue being scrutinised. The Joint Committee is asked to note that this is already a power of overview and scrutiny committees by virtue of the Local Government Act 2000. However, the Guidance also recommends other ways of involving stakeholders by, for example, giving evidence or by acting as advisers to the committee.

5. Appendices :

- Appendix 1 - Terms of Reference
- Appendix 2 - Working Arrangements