

# CUMBRIA HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting date: 9 October 2017

From: Policy and Scrutiny Team

## COMMITTEE BRIEFING REPORT

### 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report updates the Committee on developments in health scrutiny, the Committee's Work Programme and monitoring of actions not covered elsewhere on the Committee's agenda.

### 2.0 ISSUES FOR SCRUTINY

The Committee are asked to:

- (i) Receive an update on the status of the Committee's referral to the Secretary of State.
- (ii) Note the arrangements for a development session for Health Scrutiny to take place on the 27 October 2017.
- (iii) Review the existing Work Programme.

### 3.0 UPDATES

#### Referral to the Secretary of State

- 3.1 The Committee received a letter from the Secretary of State in September. This informed the Committee that the Secretary of State had instructed the Independent Reconfiguration Panel to undertake an initial assessment of the referral the Committee made in April 2017 on the reconfiguration of maternity services in West, North and East Cumbria. The Independent Reconfiguration Panel will advise the Secretary of State whether a full review is necessary.

#### Health Scrutiny Development Session 27 October

- 3.2 A Member development session on Scrutiny Skills will take place on 27th October at 10am, in the Chamber, County Hall, Kendal. This training session, facilitated by the Centre for Public Scrutiny is for all non-executive members, as well as co-opted members of the Health Scrutiny Committee and Police and Crime Panel. It will provide an overview of the skills and knowledge needed to be an effective scrutineer. Covering everything from the legislation that governs scrutiny, work planning, questioning and interrogation, building relationships and community engagement.
- 3.3 This will be followed by a session for members of the Health Scrutiny Committee only, which will take place at 1:30pm in County Hall, Kendal. The schedule for this session and its proposed purpose and anticipated outcomes will be circulated to members in advance.

### **Variation Sub Committee**

- 3.4 The Variation Sub Committee will convene as required to consider proposed changes to Health Services as per the first stage of the Committee's Variation Protocol.

### **Scrutinising the Lancashire and South Cumbria STP.**

- 3.5 The Joint Cumbria and Lancashire Health Scrutiny Committee will only convene if there is a planned service change that is considered a "substantial variation" e.g. any changes to elective surgery.
- 3.6 Discussions have taken place with Lancashire County Council and whilst there has been recognition of a need for a joint approach, there are still questions around what the "home" Committees consider in comparison to any possible Joint Committee. Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen have not to date made a request for a Joint Committee(s) on the STP. At this stage it has been agreed to share information between the existing Committees to identify any issues of shared concern.

## **4.0 WORK PROGRAMME**

- 4.1 The Committee's work programme is attached at Appendix 1 for the Committee to consider and review.
- 4.2 Work has been initiated on the planned ongoing Joint Health and Adults Scrutiny Task Group on Health and Care Integration.
- 4.3 Initial discussions have taken place on the issue of how people with Hearing Loss access Health Services in Cumbria, it has been proposed that this be progressed through a substantive item at the Committee meeting in December where Members can hear evidence from the Cumbria Deaf Association amongst others.
- 4.4 A member of the Committee has requested that the Committee consider the North West Ambulance Service's use of other agencies such as St Johns Ambulance and private sector vehicles. This would examine the cost of and rationale for their use. If the Committee agrees this could be incorporated into the February meeting when NWAS will be attending to update the Committee on their CQC Improvement Plan.

*September 2017*

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## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Work Programme

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