

**DEVELOPING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY AND
THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

To: **Cabinet**

Date: **6th September 2011**

From: **Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny
Committee**

Electoral division(s): **all**

Forward Plan ref: **Not applicable** *Key decision:* **No**

Purpose: **To inform the Cabinet of the work being undertaken to
develop the relationship between Overview and Scrutiny
and the shadow Health and Wellbeing Board**

Recommendation: **Cabinet note the contents of the report**

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Government's proposals for health services envisage a key role for Overview and Scrutiny, particularly in relation to the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) and Clinical Commissioning Groups, and the legislation contains powers to enable this.
- 1.2 The Centre for Public Scrutiny identifies four principles of good overview and scrutiny that will continue to be relevant under the new arrangements:
 - Provides critical friend challenge to people who make policy and decisions
 - Enables a voice for the public and its diverse range of communities
 - Carried out by Independent and impartial members, who lead and own the scrutiny role
 - Drives improvement in public services
- 1.3 In order to develop its capacity to apply these principles effectively in the changing environment, the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) successfully applied to be one of 8 Centre for Public Scrutiny health reforms scrutiny development areas. This programme aims to support the early development of accountability arrangements and ways of working between Scrutiny, HWBs and Clinical Commissioning Groups. Under the scheme, the Committee received 5 days consultancy support during July and August, and is taking part in shared learning with the other authorities involved that will result in a publication in October. The programme was funded by the Healthy Communities Team at Local Government Information and Development.
- 1.4 The programme in Cambridgeshire focused on the development of the scrutiny role and relationships with the shadow HWB, complementing the work the Committee has already done to establish links with the GP Senate, which is overseeing the transition to General Practitioner (GP) led commissioning and individual GP commissioning clusters. The consultant worked with an OSC member working group to identify issues and ways forward.
- 1.5 A single issue meeting between the Joint Workstreams Group and the OSC working group was held in early August. This explored how OSC might relate to and contribute to the development of the HWB between now and 2013

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 Issues which have emerged from these discussions include:
 - How OSC can most effectively add value to the work and priorities of the HWB, at both strategic and service delivery levels, and ensure that its activities result in improved outcomes.
 - How OSC responds to the challenge of the more localised approach envisaged in both the proposed HWB network models and the emerging arrangements for clinical commissioning
 - The inter-relationships between OSC, the HWB, Clinical Commissioning Groups and local Healthwatch
- 2.2 The Committee will work with the shadow HWB over the next 18 months to

develop the scrutiny role and relationships with particular reference to addressing the issues above.

- 2.3 An information seminar for OSC and other interested members on the role of the HWB and how it is being developed in Cambridgeshire will be held on 15th September

3. ALIGNMENT WITH PRIORITIES AND WAYS OF WORKING

3.1 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people when they need it most

Developing an effective scrutiny role and relationship with the HWB, Clinical Commissioning Groups and local Healthwatch will contribute to this priority.

3.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives in their communities

Developing an effective scrutiny role and relationship with the HWB, Clinical Commissioning Groups and local Healthwatch will contribute to this priority.

3.3 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all

No significant implications

3.4 Ways of Working

Developing an effective scrutiny role and relationship with the HWB, Clinical Commissioning Groups and local Healthwatch will contribute to the following ways of working.

- Being a genuinely local Council
- Making sure the right services are provided in the right way
- Investing in prevention
- Working together

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource and Performance Implications

There are no significant implications

4.2 Statutory, Risk and Legal Implications

There are no significant implications

4.3 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no significant implications

4.4 Engagement and Consultation

There are no significant implications

Source Documents	Location
None	