

Health Scrutiny Work Programme

To: Adults and Health Committee

Meeting Date: 10 October 2024

From: Executive Director Adults, Health and Commissioning

Electoral division(s): All

Key decision: No

Forward Plan ref: Not Applicable

Executive Summary: The health scrutiny work plan for 2024/25 is reviewed at each meeting to ensure Member oversight and to confirm that it continues to reflect Members' priorities.

The Committee's agreement is sought for arrangements to develop the health scrutiny work plan for 2025/26.

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to:

- a) review the health scrutiny work programme for the remainder of 2024/25 (Appendix 1)
- b) agree to the arrangements proposed to develop an annual health scrutiny work plan for 2025/26.

Officer contact:

Name: Richenda Greenhill
Post: Democratic Services Officer
Email: Richenda.Greenhill@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

1. Creating a greener, fairer and more caring Cambridgeshire

1.1 The report proposals align with the following ambitions:

- Ambition 3: Health inequalities are reduced
- Ambition 4: People enjoy healthy, safe and independent lives through timely support that is most suited to their needs
- Ambition 6: Places and communities prosper because they have a resilient and inclusive economy, access to good quality public services and social justice is prioritised.
- Ambition 7: Children and young people have opportunities to thrive

2. Background

2.1 The Health Scrutiny Work Plan sets out the Adults and Health Committee's future work programme and in relation to the Council's statutory health scrutiny function.

2.2 The committee reviews the Health Scrutiny Work Plan each time it meets. This:

- i. enables members to satisfy themselves that the Work Plan continues to reflect the committee's priorities
- ii. allows the programme to be amended to respond to any emerging issues which the committee feels would benefit from scrutiny
- iii. supports a broad-based Member-led approach

2.3 Since June 2023 the Health Scrutiny Work Plan has been reviewed during the committee's afternoon health scrutiny sessions when co-opted members are present, rather than in the morning session as part of the committee's agenda plan.

3. Main Issues

Health Scrutiny Work Plan 2024/25

3.1 The current Health Scrutiny Work Plan is attached at Appendix 1 for review. This covers the period to the end of the 2024/25 municipal year.

Health Scrutiny Work Plan 2025/26

3.2 The committee is invited to approve arrangements to manage its scrutiny work planning for 2025/26. Last year, the committee trialled a new approach with suggestions for possible scrutiny topics being invited from a wide range of sources within the Council and from local stakeholders and partners. This was used to produce a long-list of potential topics which was assessed by committee members at a work planning workshop against agreed scrutiny objectives.

3.3 Developing an annual health scrutiny work plan allows time to for the committee to collectively develop the lines of inquiry it wants to pursue and provides more time for those

organisations being scrutinised to prepare, reducing the impact on other business. Regular review of the work plan at committee meetings and by committee Spokes ensures that it continues to reflect Members' priorities, and also allows the programme to be amended if needed to respond to new or emerging issues.

- 3.4 The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) says that scrutiny work planning is about looking at the right topics, at the right time and in the right way. The following process is proposed to achieve this:
- i. Produce a long-list of potential health scrutiny topics for 2025/26. Suggestions will be invited from in-house experts, partners and stakeholders:
 - a) Adults and Health Committee members, including co-opted members representing the Council's city and district council partners
 - b) Adults and Health Committee NHS Liaison Group members
 - c) Children and Young People Committee Spokes
 - d) The Corporate Leadership Team
 - e) Local residents
 - f) Healthwatch Cambridgeshire
 - g) Voluntary and Community Sector representatives on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Health and Wellbeing Board
 - h) The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care Board
 - ii. Hold an online committee workshop in January 2025 to review the long-list of potential topics against the criteria at Appendix 2.
 - iii. Produce a draft health scrutiny work plan for 2025/26 for review at the committee meeting in March 2025. This will be submitted to committee for confirmation in June 2025, following the local elections.
- 3.5 Several potential scrutiny topics for 2024/25 have already been suggested and are included at Appendix 3 for information.

4. Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 Scrutiny sessions arranged on a rolling basis throughout the year. This would allow a fast response to emerging issues, but leaves little time for the committee to develop its lines of enquiry. Requiring NHS providers and commissioners to regularly attend for scrutiny at short notice may adversely impact their daily role.
- 4.2 The scrutiny work plan set by a smaller group of Members, for example Spokes. This would ensure cross party involvement, but would not harness to full range of experience and expertise existing across the wider committee.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1 The introduction of an annual health scrutiny work plan in 2022/23 enabled committee members to consider a broad range of potential scrutiny topics against agreed scrutiny objectives. This ensured a Member-led approach to identifying priority areas for scrutiny

and agreeing a programme of work.

5.2 It is recommended that the same approach is followed for 2025/26.

6. Significant Implications

6.1 Finance Implications

Not applicable.

6.2 Legal Implications

Not applicable.

6.3 Risk Implications

Not applicable.

6.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

Not applicable.

7. Source Documents

7.1 [Health Scrutiny Work Plan December 2023](#)