



Gateshead Appointments to Northumberland, Tyne and Wear & North Durham Joint Health OSC

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Council is asked to endorse the establishment of a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee under the provisions of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, involving all local authorities affected by the Northumberland, Tyne and Wear and North Durham Sustainability and Transformation Plan and any associated proposals for major service change and appoint three councillors to the Joint Committee in line with the rules on political balance.

BACKGROUND

2. In December 2015, the NHS shared planning guidance 2016-17 – 2020/21 outlined a new approach to help ensure that health and care services were built around the needs of local populations. To do this, every health and care system in England, involving local organisations such as NHS providers, commissioners and local authorities, were asked to produce a multi-year Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) showing how local services would evolve and become sustainable over the next five years – ultimately delivering the NHS Five Year Forward View vision of better health, better patient care and improved NHS efficiency.
3. The region is covered by two separate STP's. One covering Northumberland, Tyne and Wear and North Durham and a southern STP covering Durham, Darlington, Teesside, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby
4. The two draft STPs were published in November 2016.
5. Currently there is no requirement, under legislation, for local authorities in the above area to establish a Joint OSC to scrutinise the STP, as the STP in its current format does not represent a major service change. However, under the Regulations local authorities can choose to establish a Joint Committee if it is considered that it is the best way of considering how the needs of a local population which happens to cross local authority boundaries are being met.
6. Where proposals represent a major service change to service provision, Overview and Scrutiny has a statutory role in considering whether any proposed developments are in the best interests of the health service in their area (National Health Service Act 2006 as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012).

7. Regulations also specify that where a relevant NHS Body or health service provider consults more than one local authority's health scrutiny function about proposals for major service changes there is a requirement for a mandatory joint health scrutiny committee to consider and respond to the consultation (The Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013.
8. It is considered that in the longer term the issues and challenges set out in the STP are likely to lead to some proposals for major service changes and that some of these proposals for change will cross local authority boundaries from across the patch in some form or other and so warrant a mandated Joint Scrutiny Committee at that time.
9. A Joint Health OSC established initially for the specific purpose of scrutinising matters / major service changes as a result of the Better Health Programme, a major transformation programme to improve the quality of health services across County Durham and Darlington and Tees Valley, has recently had its remit extended to include scrutiny of the STP covering South Durham, Darlington, Teesside, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby.
10. Having regard to the above, local authorities affected by the Northumberland, Tyne and Wear and North Durham STP provisionally agreed to establish a joint Health OSC to oversee the development of the STP and any associated proposals for substantial variation and development to health services contained therein or resulting therefrom.
11. In accordance with the above regulations the new Joint Committee will be the vehicle through which the respective local authorities respond to any consultation on the STP or associated proposals for major service changes.
12. It will be the role of Gateshead's Care, Health and Wellbeing OSC to provide information and representations in respect of any consultation as it impacts on residents of Gateshead, to Gateshead's nominated representatives on the Joint Committee.
13. Gateshead's Care, Health and Wellbeing OSC has subsequently endorsed this proposal at its meeting on 12 September 2017.
14. The protocol and terms of reference for the proposed Joint Committee are attached at Appendix 1 and they set out the role and function of the Joint Committee as well as the proposed representation required from each Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

15. Council is recommended to appoint three representatives to the above Joint Committee in line with the rules on political balance.