

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health)	Date of Meeting:	Tuesday 17 October 2023
Subject:	Health Substantial Reconfiguration Proposals		
Report of:	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member – Health and Wellbeing		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To propose amendments to the process for considering substantial reconfiguration proposals.

Recommendation(s):

That the Statutory Scrutiny Officer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health), be authorised to review substantial reconfiguration proposals received, in order to inform an initial decision, as set out in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.3 of the report.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

A high number of substantial reconfiguration proposals are anticipated as part of the Harmonisation of Clinical Policies.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

All future substantial reconfiguration proposals could be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health), which could result in the Committee being overwhelmed by proposals and decisions possibly being delayed, due to the number of formal meetings programmed for each Municipal Year.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

None

(B) Capital Costs

None

Implications of the Proposals:

<p>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): None</p>									
<p>Legal Implications: The Terms of Reference for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) within the Council’s Constitution includes: • To formally respond to consultations by relevant NHS bodies and relevant service health providers on substantial reconfiguration proposals</p>									
<p>Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.</p>									
<p>Impact on Children and Young People: Yes There may potentially be substantial reconfiguration proposals that impact on children and young people, in the future.</p>									
<p>Climate Emergency Implications: The recommendations within this report will</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Have a positive impact</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Have a neutral impact</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Have a negative impact</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> </table> <p>There are no direct climate emergency implications arising from this report. Any climate emergency implications arising from the consideration of future reports will be contained in such reports when they are presented to Members at the appropriate time.</p>		Have a positive impact	No	Have a neutral impact	Yes	Have a negative impact	No	The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes
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Contribution to the Council’s Core Purpose:

<p>Protect the most vulnerable: None directly applicable to this report. Reference to future decisions which may contribute towards protecting vulnerable members of Sefton’s communities will be contained in any future reports when they are presented to Members at the appropriate time.</p>
<p>Facilitate confident and resilient communities: As above.</p>
<p>Commission, broker and provide core services: As above.</p>
<p>Place – leadership and influencer: As above.</p>

Drivers of change and reform: As above.
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: As above.
Greater income for social investment: As above.
Cleaner Greener: As above.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.7378/23) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5578/23) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

Discussions have taken place with relevant officers responsible for the Health Overview and Scrutiny function in other local authorities within Cheshire and Merseyside.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

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Appendices:

The following appendix is attached to this report:

- Protocol for Joint Health Scrutiny Arrangements

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 The Terms of Reference for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) within the Council's Constitution (Chapter 6) includes the following:
- To formally respond to consultations by relevant NHS bodies and relevant service health providers on substantial reconfiguration proposals.
- 1.2 Where such proposals impact on more than one local authority area, each authority's health scrutiny arrangements must consider whether the proposals constitute a substantial development or variation or not. The regulations place a requirement on those local authorities that agree that a proposal is substantial to establish, in each instance, a joint overview and scrutiny committee for the purposes of considering it.
- 1.3 The protocol attached at **APPENDIX A** deals with the operation of such arrangements for the local authorities of Cheshire and Merseyside.

2. Current Developments

- 2.1 Recent discussions between relevant officers responsible for the Health Overview and Scrutiny function in other local authorities within the Cheshire and Merseyside area have identified that some 63 substantial reconfiguration proposals are likely to be forthcoming to each of the nine local authorities in Cheshire and Merseyside in the near future, as part of the Harmonisation of Clinical Policies within the Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care System.
- 2.2 All future substantial reconfiguration proposals received could be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health), which could result in risks such as the Committee being overwhelmed by proposals, and formal decisions possibly being delayed, due to the number of formal meetings programmed for each Municipal Year.

3. Suggested Procedure for Consideration of Future Substantial Reconfiguration Proposals

- 3.1 Rather than submit all future substantial reconfiguration proposals received directly to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health), it is proposed that the Statutory Scrutiny Officer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee, should review substantial reconfiguration proposals received to inform an initial decision which would be conveyed to the relevant Health Provider.
- 3.2 Details of substantial reconfiguration proposals received would be emailed to Committee Members inviting feedback, which would be considered.
- 3.3 Once an initial decision has been reached, the outcome would be reported to the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health), for formal approval.