

OVERVIEW AND SRUTINY COMMITTEE (HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE)

ADDITIONAL TERMS OF REFERENCE TO REFLECT KEY MESSAGES WITHIN THE HEALTH SCRUTINY GUIDANCE

1. To strengthen the voice of local people, ensuring that their needs and experience are considered as an integral part of the commissioning and delivery of health services and that those services are effective and safe.
2. To take a strategic overview of how well integration of health, public health and social care is working, including how well the Health and Wellbeing Board is carrying out its duty to promote integration, and to make recommendations for improvement.
3. To seek information about the performance of local health services and institutions; to challenge information provided by commissioners and providers of health services; and to test this information by drawing on different sources of intelligence.
4. To engage with relevant NHS bodies, with a view to understanding local health needs and services across the whole health care system.
5. To understand and appreciate respective roles between the health scrutiny function, the NHS, the local authority, health and wellbeing boards and local Healthwatch.
6. To keep effective channels open, by which the public can communicate concerns about the quality of NHS and public services. Individual complaints cannot be considered, although the information can be used to obtain an impression of services overall and to question commissioners and providers about patterns and trends.
7. To independently verify information provided by relevant NHS bodies and health service providers, e.g. by seeking the views of Healthwatch.
8. To focus on health outcomes, consider cross-cutting issues, including general health improvement, wellbeing and how well health inequalities are being addressed, as well as specific treatment services.
9. Where concerns exist about proposals for substantial developments or variation in health service (or reconfiguration), to work with the local NHS to attempt to resolve concerns locally, if at all possible. External support may be sought from the Independent Reconfiguration Panel and/or Centre for Public Scrutiny. If the decision is ultimately taken to request the Council to support a formal referral of the reconfiguration proposals to the Secretary of State for Health, the referral must include an explanation of all steps taken to try to reach agreement in relation to the proposals.

10. To recognise the resource envelope within which the NHS operates, in considering reconfiguration proposals and take into account the effect of the proposals on the sustainability of services, in addition to their quality and safety.
11. To ensure that all the health scrutiny functions are discharged in a transparent manner that will boost the confidence of local people in health scrutiny. In addition to being held in an open forum, members of the public will be permitted to use any communication methods, such as filming and tweeting, to report proceedings. This is in line with the transparency measures in the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, and will allow local people not present at health scrutiny meetings to have an opportunity to see and/or hear the proceedings.