

HEALTH SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Report By: Director of Social Care and Strategic Housing

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To give further consideration to items for inclusion in the work programme for the Health Scrutiny Committee.

Financial Implications

2. There may be resource implications arising from the implementation of reviews identified in the work programme. These will be costed, and resources assigned, when the detailed scoping of individual reviews is undertaken.

Background

3. In October the Committee considered a work programme structured around three main areas:

- Managing public expectations and public involvement

(It was agreed it would be helpful for the Committee to understand the nature of public and patient involvement in Herefordshire and meet the Primary Care Trust's and Hospital Trust's co-ordinators, Euan McPherson and Stephanie Pennington. One of the issues that the Committee could then look at is Councillors' potential role in managing public expectation within their constituencies.)

- Improving public health

(It was agreed that it would be helpful to receive a more detailed briefing on the work of the public health team and at a later date look at the extent to which the Director of Public Health's recommendations have actually influenced the policy and decision making of public agencies within the County)

- Access and waiting

(It was agreed it would be helpful for the Committee to understand how this national issue impacts at a local level and where there are particular bottlenecks. The Hospital Trust is involved in a national initiative aimed at identifying and reducing waits in the system and it may be useful for the Project Manager to brief the Committee on the outcomes of the initiative to date. The project is due to end in April 2004.)

Within the context of access and waiting, some early work was also done on scoping a review which the Committee could undertake on examining the process of accessing emergency in the following areas:

- Initial contact with the NHS, for example, Accident and Emergency, NHS Direct, GP practice or dialling '999';

Further information on the subject of this report is available from Sue Fiennes, Director of Social Care and Strategic Housing on (01432) 260048

- The process of getting from place of need to hospital, for example, using the ambulance service or paramedics;
 - The initial point of access in hospital (ie where a patient is seen by a clinician or nurse practitioner).
4. This programme was in addition to major consultations which the Committee would consider as necessary under the health scrutiny regulations.
 5. The Committee also agreed amongst other things that sub-groups should be formed to look at the following issues:
 - Delayed discharges (now to be referred to as the Safely Home project): focusing particularly on transfer from community hospital to home; a group comprising those Members who serve on both the Health Scrutiny Committee and the Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Committee (Councillors Mrs JA Hyde, R Mills, Ms G Powell) and Councillors GW Davis and G Lucas, chaired by Mrs PA Andrews;
 - Car parking at the County Hospital: a group comprising Councillors Mrs WU Attfield, TM James, Brig P Jones and JB Williams;
 - Communication and Morale (Councillors Brig P Jones and WJS Thomas)
 - Proposals affecting the Ear Nose and Throat Service (Councillors, TM James, Brigadier P Jones, G Lucas, WJS Thomas and JB Williams).
 6. It has also been suggested that it would be useful for the Committee to consider the operation of the new contracts for General Practitioners at some point.
 7. This clearly forms a considerable programme which can not be undertaken all at once. A proposed timetable is set out below. If this is acceptable detailed scoping studies will be prepared.

| Activity | Suggested Timescale |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Ear Nose and Throat Service Consultation | November 2003- 29 February 2004 |
| Car Parking | November – December 2003 |
| Access and Waiting | March – September 2004 |
| Safely Home | October 2004 – March 2005 |
| Communication and Morale | Ongoing |

8. This could translate into a draft Work Programme as appended.
9. The Committee also agreed to consider establishing special relationships with key health partners principally involved in the areas of consultation and choice and arrangements for monitoring issues arising from the Climbie case. The Chairman would himself wish to lead on choice working liaising with Mr E McPherson. It is suggested that another member be nominated to lead on consultation which again would mean liaising with Mr McPherson. In relation to the Climbie case it is suggested that in the light of national discussions and performance improvement plans this matter be revisited by the Committee in October 2004.
10. It has also been suggested that with the demise of the Community Health Council on 1 December 2003 the outgoing Chairman and Members be invited to act as a source of advice to the Committee as appropriate until the Patients Forums are established. It is suggested this advice would be particularly valuable in relation to the consultation on proposals affecting the ear, nose and throat Service. The latest position on the Patients Forums in Herefordshire is that they expect to be formed by 1 December 2003.

Training

11. It was agreed at the last meeting that Mr McPherson of the Patient Advice and Liaison Service be invited to suggest a development programme to assist Members of the Committee in their role. An outline proposal based on assistance provided to lay Members of relevant bodies is attached at appendix 2.

RECOMMENDATION

- THAT**
- (a) the Committee consider and agree the broad content of its work programme for 2003/2004;**
 - (b) scoping of any Reviews be undertaken after consultation with the Chairman and reported back to the Committee as appropriate;**
 - (c) outgoing Members of the CHC be invited to act as a source of advice to the Committee, providing views to the Committee on request, until 29 February, 2004.**
 - (d) the Chairman take the lead liaising with health partners on choice;**
 - (e) a member be nominated to take the lead liaising with health partners on consultation;**
- and**
- (f) the training proposals be welcomed.**

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified

Health Scrutiny Committee – Draft Work Programme 2003-2005

| Date (By) | Items |
|------------------------|---|
| January 2004 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal Meeting with the Primary Care Trust's and Hospital Trust's co-ordinators, • Confirm Scoping of Access and Waiting Review • Report on car parking at Hereford hospital • Interim report on Ear Nose and Throat Service |
| February/March 2004 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Report on Ear Nose and Throat Service |
| April 2004 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Communication and Morale • Report on Councillors' potential role in managing public expectation within their constituencies. • Briefing on outcomes of national initiative aimed at identifying and reducing waiting times in the system. |
| May/June 2004 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm Scoping of Safely Home Review • Interim report on access and waiting review |
| September/October 2004 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Report of Access and Waiting Review • Update on Climbie case issues and responsibilities • Update on communication and Morale |
| December/January 2005 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interim Report on Safely Home Review |
| March/ April 2005 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GP Contracts • Final report of Safely Home Review |

Further additions to the work programme will be made as required