

EAR, NOSE AND THROAT SERVICE CONSULTATION

Report By: Director of Social Care and Strategic Housing

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To provide the Committee with an update on the process for responding to the Ear, Nose and Throat Service consultation exercise.

Financial Implications

2. No significant resource implications have been identified in relation to the current proposal for the Ear, Nose and Throat Service consultation exercise.

Background

3. At its meeting on 8th October, 2003, the Committee resolved that a Sub-Group should be established to consider proposals affecting the Ear Nose and Throat Service, consisting of Councillors TM James, Brig P Jones, G Lucas, WJS Thomas and JB Williams.
4. It is anticipated that the Primary Care Trust Board will approve its consultation document on the future arrangements for the Ear Nose and Throat Service on 28th January, 2004 and the report will then be circulated to all Sub-Group and Committee Members.
5. Arrangements have been made for the Sub-Group to meet on the 26th and 27th February, 2004 at the Shirehall, Hereford to gather evidence from NHS staff on the impact of the proposed changes.
6. Further interviews and site visits may be undertaken as a result of the evidence presented on the 26th and 27th February, 2004. A draft response to the consultation exercise will then be prepared for consideration by the Committee.
7. Depending on progress and the length of the consultation period, it may be necessary to arrange an additional special meeting of the Committee prior to the next scheduled meeting on 6th April, 2004 in order to approve its response to the consultation.
8. Government guidance (para 4.3.3) states that, "when the scrutiny review has been completed it is the responsibility of the overview and scrutiny committee itself to make its report to the NHS body or bodies concerned. The report is made on behalf of the Committee, not the local authority, and therefore there is no requirement for the executive or full Council to endorse the report. However, good practice would suggest that both should receive a copy of the report and a briefing identifying the main implications".

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee approve the arrangements for undertaking its response to consultation report on the future arrangements for the Ear Nose and Throat Service.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified