

## ACCESS AND WAITING

Report By: Director of Social Care and Strategic Housing

### Wards Affected

County-wide

### Purpose

1. To receive a presentation on the national initiative aimed at reducing waiting times.

### Financial implications

2. None identified at this stage. Work is to be carried out from within existing resources.

### Background

3. In determining its initial Work Programme in November 2003 the Committee identified access and waiting as one of the three main areas around which that programme should be structured. It was recognised that this was a national issue but it would be helpful to understand how this impacted at local level and where there were particular bottlenecks. In January 2004 within the context of Access and waiting the Committee, approved a scoping statement for a review of emergency care access.
4. Throughout these considerations the Committee was aware that the Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust was involved in a national initiative aimed at reducing waiting times in the system and identified that it would be useful to be briefed on the outcomes to date.
5. Mrs Sharon Beamish, Director of Operations for the Trust will give a presentation on the national initiative at the meeting and answer questions. The Trust's current performance will assist in focussing the Committee's planned review.

### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT the presentation be noted subject to any questions the Committee wishes to ask.**

### BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None