

## **FUTURE SUPPORT FOR PATIENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH**

**Report By: Director of Social Care & Strategic Housing**

### **Wards Affected**

County-wide

### **Purpose**

1. To consider a draft protocol concerning future working arrangements between the Committee and the Patient and Public Involvement Forums (PPIFs); and, to provide the Committee with an opportunity to respond to a Department of Health questionnaire seeking views on changes to the system for patient and public involvement (PPI) in health.

### **Financial Implications**

2. No resource implications have been identified in relation to this item.

### **Background**

3. Following a meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2004 between Councillor Brigadier P Jones, representing Councillor WJS Thomas, and the Patients and Public Involvement Forums, it was agreed that a protocol be written and agreed to develop and facilitate an ongoing, mutually beneficial working relationship. The current draft allows for PPIF members to attend HSC and speak at the Chairman's discretion, but this is not reciprocated in the proposed arrangements for attendance at PPIF meetings by members of HSC. Attached at Appendix 1 is a draft protocol to cover proposed future working arrangements between the Committee and PPIFs. It is important to note that the PPIFs and their officer have not yet had opportunity to comment on the draft protocol.
4. The Government has recently announced that there are to be changes in the system for patient and public involvement in health, including that:
  - the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health (CPPIH) will be abolished
  - new arrangements will be put in place to ensure continued support for PPIFs
  - NHS Appointments Commission will appoint forum members in the future
  - a new centre of excellence for patient and public involvement will be set up
  - the present system of patient and public involvement will remain the same. This includes:
    - Patient Advice and Liaison Services (PALS)
    - Independent Complaints Advocacy Services (ICAS)
    - Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSCs)

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from Alan Blundell, Head of Policy and Communication on (01432) 260226

- the new arrangements will not cost more than the budget currently available for the CPPIH
  - PPI Forums will remain independent and responsible for their own work plans and priorities.
5. The Department of Health is currently conducting a survey seeking comments on support arrangements for PPIFs. Attached at Appendix 2 is a completed questionnaire, seeking views on:
- How PPI Forum members should be recruited now and in the future
  - The support and guidance they need to maximise their effectiveness
  - The processes, structures and relationships they need to achieve this.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- THAT (a) the Committee give authority to the Director of Social Care and Strategic Housing to liaise with the PPIFs to revise the draft protocol to allow for HSC members to speak at PPIFs at their Chairman's discretion; and agree the protocol**
- (b) the agreed questionnaire be submitted to the Department of Health**

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- None identified