

# Guide to Health, Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

## Committee membership

Scrutiny is a statutory role fulfilled by councillors who are not members of the cabinet.

The role of the scrutiny committees is to help develop policy, to carry out reviews of council and other local services, and to hold decision makers to account for their actions and decisions.

Council has decided that there will be five scrutiny committees. The committees reflect the balance of political groups on the council.

The Health, Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee consists of 7 councillors.

Councillor	Party
Polly Andrews (Vice-Chairperson)	Liberal Democrats
Jenny Bartlett	The Green Party
Pauline Crockett (Chairperson)	Independents for Herefordshire
Simeon Cole	Conservative Party
Dave Davies	Conservative Party
Mark Dykes	Liberal Democrats
Richard Thomas	Conservative Party

## Scrutiny functions

The committees have the power:

- (a) to review, influence policy or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the executive,
- (b) to make reports or recommendations to the authority or the executive with respect to the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the executive,
- (c) to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any functions which are not the responsibility of the executive,
- (d) to make reports or recommendations to council or the cabinet with respect to the discharge of any functions which are not the responsibility of the executive,
- (e) to make reports or recommendations to council or the cabinet on matters which affect the authority's area or the inhabitants of that area,
- (f) to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions and to make reports or recommendations to the council with respect to the discharge of those functions. In this regard crime and disorder functions means:
  - (i) a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and
  - (ii) a strategy for combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area; and
  - (iii) a strategy for the reduction of re-offending in the area

- (g) to review and scrutinise any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health service in its area and make reports and recommendations to a responsible person on any matter it has reviewed or scrutinised or to be consulted by a relevant NHS body or health service provider in accordance with the Regulations (2013/218) as amended. In this regard *health service* includes services designed to secure improvement
- (i) in the physical and mental health of the people of England, and
  - (ii) in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of physical and mental illness, and
  - (iii) any services provided in pursuance of arrangements under section 75 in relation to the exercise of health-related functions of a local authority.
- (h) to review and scrutinise the exercise by risk management authorities of flood risk management functions or coastal erosion risk management functions which may affect the local authority's area.
- (i) To track actions and undertake an annual effectiveness review

### **The remit of Health, Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee**

- Adult social care (including adult safeguarding)
- Health and wellbeing board
- Housing
- Adults mental and physical health and wellbeing
- Safe Herefordshire campaign
- Outbreak control plan
- New models of care accommodation
- Talk Communities
- Homelessness
- All ages whole system commissioning strategy
- Independent living services and assistive technology plan
- Adults and communities budget and policy framework
- Statutory health scrutiny powers including the review and scrutiny of any matter relating to the planning provision and operation of health services affecting the area and to make reports and recommendations on these matters

### **Who attends scrutiny committee meetings?**

- Members of the committee, including the chairperson and vice-chairperson.
- Cabinet members, they are not members of the committee but attend principally to answer any questions the committee may have and inform the debate.
- Officers of the council to present reports and give technical advice to the committee.
- People external to the council invited to provide information to the committee.
- Other councillors can attend but can only speak at the discretion of the chairperson.