

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE

Report By: County Secretary and Solicitor

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To note proposed changes to the local health service and endorse the response to the Strategic Health Authority (SHA).

Financial implications

2. None identified.

Background

3. The Department of Health published "Commissioning a Patient Led NHS" in July 2005 setting out a framework for improving commissioning of services alongside improvements in health and service delivery. The main factors in the guidance are:
 - Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) of the future will concentrate on commissioning and improving public health
 - PCTs will not directly provide services (this may be allowed only in the most exceptional circumstances)
 - GP practice-based commissioning will be fully developed
 - A reduction in the number of SHAs, Ambulance Trusts and PCTs
 - Most NHS Trusts will become Foundation Trusts
 - An expectation that PCT boundaries will match those of Local Authorities
 - Delivery of at least 15% reduction in management and administrative costs.
4. The Paper directed Strategic Health Authorities to "co-ordinate an exercise locally to ensure we have the right configuration for commissioning."
5. A copy of the letter from the West Midlands Strategic Health Authority outlining the process and enclosing a paper setting out options for the future configuration of services is attached as appendix 1.

6. A response was required by Friday 16 September if it was to be included in the report to the Strategic Health Authority Board which meets on 28th September. An informal discussion between Members of Cabinet and Health Scrutiny Committee was held on 12 September and on 15 September Cabinet approved a response which was also signed by the Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee on the Committee's behalf. A copy is attached at appendix 2.

RECOMMENDATION

That the proposed changes to the local health service be noted and the response to the Strategic Health Authority as set out in appendix 2 to the report be endorsed.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None