

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE

Report By: Director of Children's Services

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To consider the response to three consultations about the future configuration of the NHS services in the West Midlands.

Financial implications

2. None identified.

Background

3. In September 2005 the Committee received a report on proposed changes to the local health service and endorsed a joint response submitted to the West Midlands South Strategic Health Authority by the Leader of the Council and the Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee.
4. The Strategic Health Authority (SHA) was required to submit a proposal to the Department of Health in October 2005. Following consideration by that Department a consultation on proposals for the future of the NHS in the West Midlands was launched on 14th December, 2005. The consultation period ends on 22nd March, 2006.
5. The proposals affecting local health services upon which the Committee received a presentation from SHA representatives on 30th January, 2006, are
 - The establishment of new Primary Care Trusts in the West Midlands South SHA area. (It will be noted that the retention of one PCT for Herefordshire is the **preferred** option).
 - Establishment of one West Midlands Wide SHA
 - Establishment of one ambulance trust for the West Midlands.
6. Copies of the relevant consultation documents have previously been circulated to Members of the Committee.

Issues

7. The Committee was informed in January that Cabinet has also been consulted on these proposals on behalf of the Council. Whilst recognising the Committee's

independent role it was agreed that arrangements could be made to facilitate a joint response on behalf of this Committee and Cabinet.

8. The report prepared for Cabinet is appended.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee, in consultation with Cabinet, determines a response to the consultation documents on proposed changes to the configuration of local health services.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None