

## **COST SAVING PROPOSALS – PROVIDER ARM OF HEREFORDSHIRE PRIMARY CARE TRUST**

**Report By: Director of Adult and Community Services**

### **Wards Affected**

County-wide

### **Purpose**

1. To consider cost saving proposals by the provider arm of the Primary Care Trust.

### **Financial implications**

2. As described in the briefing paper.

### **Background**

3. A briefing paper prepared by Mr Mike Thomas, Director of Operations at the Primary Care Trust setting out proposals to achieve cost savings is attached.
4. The Department of Health's (DH) guidance on the overview and scrutiny of Health states that, as provided for in the Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committees Health Scrutiny Functions) Regulations 2002, "Each local NHS body has a duty to consult the local overview and scrutiny committee(s) on any proposals it may have under consideration for any substantial development of the health service in the area of the committees' local authorities or any proposal to make any substantial variation in the provision of such service(s)." There are some exemptions, but in general terms where a substantial variation is proposed the Scrutiny Committee must be consulted.
5. The Regulations do not define how the word "substantial" is to be interpreted. The guidance states that

*"Local NHS bodies should aim to reach a local understanding or definition with their overview and scrutiny committee(s). This should be informed by discussions with other key stakeholders including patients' forums.*

*In considering whether the proposal is substantial, NHS bodies, committees and stakeholders should consider generally the impact of the change upon patients, carers and the public who use or have the potential to use the service.*

*More specifically they should take into account...changes in accessibility of services.... impact of the proposal on the wider community...., patients affected..., and methods of service delivery...".*

**Issues**

6. The Committee will note that it is stated in the attached briefing paper that, *“all of the proposals represented in this paper either are assessed as having no direct impact on service provision or a temporary adjustment to achieve the saving targets which may affect small numbers of patients.”*
7. This Committee needs to consider whether it thinks any of the proposals represent a substantial development or substantial variation of service upon which the Committee and others should be formally consulted.
8. Mike Thomas, Director of Operations at the Primary Care Trust will be at the meeting to present the briefing paper and answer questions.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- None