

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	23 February 2016
Subject:	Annual Review of the Effectiveness of the Council's Involvement in the Gloucestershire Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Report of:	Graeme Simpson, Corporate Services Group Manager
Corporate Lead:	Mike Dawson, Chief Executive
Lead Member:	Councillor Mrs E J MacTiernan, Lead Member for Organisational Development
Number of Appendices:	None

Executive Summary:

As a member of the Gloucestershire Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee (GHCOS) the Council has made a contribution to the running costs since 2002. At its meeting held on 5 October 2011, the Executive Committee agreed that:

- A contribution of £2,500 remain in the Council's base budget to be paid subject to the Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertaking an annual review;
- As well as receiving regular reports from the Council's representative, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee considers on an annual basis, the effectiveness of the Council's continued involvement in GHCOS and whether value for money is being achieved for the contribution paid;

Subject to this review, and the Overview & Scrutiny Committee being content, payment of the contribution would be authorised.

Recommendation:

- 1. To consider the effectiveness of the Council's continued involvement in the Gloucestershire Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**
- 2. That, subject to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee being satisfied that value for money is being achieved, Officers be authorised to make the payment of £2,500 from the Council's base budget.**

Reasons for Recommendation:

The Council continues to support its commitment to health improvement, to act as an advocate for the Borough's communities, and continue working in partnership with other public bodies within the County.

Resource Implications:

The £2,500 contribution is included within the Council's budget.

Legal Implications:

1. The Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committees Health Scrutiny Functions) Regulations 2002 give County Councils the power to co-opt Members of District Councils in their area onto the Committee.
2. The relevant acts and regulations do not contain powers to allow a County Council to force Districts to contribute towards running costs.
3. The Health and Social Care Act 2001 and the Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committees Health Scrutiny Functions) Regulations 2002 give Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees power to obtain certain information relating to the health service in its area.

Risk Management Implications:

Not being part of the Committee would reduce the Council's ability to influence health-related issues within the Borough.

In view of the fact that all other Gloucestershire Districts contribute, there would be a potential reputational issue if the Council did not.

Performance Management Follow-up:

Regular feedback is given to Overview and Scrutiny Committee by the Council's representative on the GHCOS.

Environmental Implications:

None.

1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

1.1 In 2003, when the County set up the then Health, Community and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee, it was agreed to involve the District Councils and, since that date, all Districts have made a contribution to the running costs. The contribution covers the administrative expense of running the Committee. There is wide coverage of health and care related issues and an Officer with specialist knowledge is essential for the Committee to operate effectively.

1.2 At its meeting on 1 October 2008, the Executive Committee approved payment for three years commencing April 2008. A further report was taken to Executive Committee on 5 October 2011 to agree a way forward, as the 3 year approval period had elapsed. At that meeting the Executive Committee agreed:

- A contribution of £2,500 remain in the Council's base budget to be paid subject to the Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertaking an annual review.
- As well as receiving regular reports from the Council's representative, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers, on an annual basis, the effectiveness of the Council's continued involvement in GHCOS and whether value for money is being achieved for the contribution paid.

2.0 GLOUCESTERSHIRE HEALTH AND CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2.1 This is a County Council function but throughout it has included representatives from each District Council. It was decided that the principle behind health overview and

scrutiny was to produce a model that involved cross-Council co-operation and the effective joining up of the health agenda in the promotion of community development. This model is recognised nationally as best practice.

2.2 The purpose of the Committee (as described on the County's website) is:

"1. Carry out the overview and scrutiny functions of the County Council delivering the roles set out in Article 8 of the Constitution focussing on health issues from the public's perspective including the use of task groups to carry out its overview and scrutiny functions. To act as a lever to improve the health and those services that impact on the health of local people, working in partnership with other agencies. To address issues of health inequalities between different groups in the community. To determine those matters referred to in Article 11.02.2 of the Constitution (joint committees concerning health service changes).

2. Under the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013, to exercise the Council's role:

- in reviewing and scrutinising matters relating to the planning, provision and
- in commenting on or making a recommendation in relation to proposals for a substantial development or variation to services save that 'referral powers' to the Secretary of State remain with full Council.

3. Carry out the overview and scrutiny functions of the County Council delivering the roles set out in Article 8 of the Constitution in the context of all matters relating to adult social care."

2.3 Councillor Mrs J E Day is the Tewkesbury Borough Council representative on the Committee and reports regularly to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the activities of the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

3.0 WORK OF THE HEALTH AND CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

3.1 Highlights of the past year include:

- Quarterly performance monitoring across NHS, Adult Social Care and Public Health. The Committee uses these reports to identify issues that may require a deep dive/follow-up. For example, concerns regarding the stroke care pathway led some of the Committee visiting the Stroke Care Pathway at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital to meet with clinicians and find out first-hand how the system works. Likewise, members also visited the South West Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust's Clinical Hub in South Gloucestershire to see and listen to how calls are responded to and vehicles despatched.
- The Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspected Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Gloucestershire Care Services NHS Foundation Trust and the 2Gether NHS Foundation Trust in 2015. The Committee has received two of these reports and will receive the third at the meeting on 8 March 2016. The CQC present the reports to the Committee and the Chair(s) and Chief Executive(s) of the Trusts respond to questions. The Committee then has an ongoing role to monitor the Trusts Improvement Plans in response to the inspection.
- Suicide Prevention Strategy – the data indicates that Gloucestershire is above the England average. Members have been concerned about this issue for some time. Going forward the Committee will need to understand whether the work underlying the strategy is making a difference.
- Adult Safeguarding – the Committee meets with the Independent Chair of the

Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board and receives the Board's Annual Report.

- Out of Hours Service – following the awarding of this contract to South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SWAST) in 2015, the Committee is monitoring progress. SWAST is due back in May 2016 as the Committee is concerned with regard to performance against targets.
- Non-Emergency Patient Transport – this is an ongoing area of concern. The Committee monitors this closely and requests Arriva Transport Solutions Ltd to attend Committee meetings to answer questions/concerns directly.
- NHS 111 – this service is an important gateway to the NHS and the Committee monitors performance through the quarterly performance reports. The Committee also requests CareUK to attend Committee meetings to answer member questions/concerns directly.

All Agenda and reports can be accessed here:

<http://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=669&Year=0>

4.0 CONCLUSION

4.1 The GHCOS has considered a wide range of scrutiny work during 2015/16 which has contributed to improving health and care services across the whole of the County. Elements of this work impacts in Tewkesbury Borough and this Council's engagement with the Committee has allowed local views to be represented to and considered by the Committee in its deliberations.

4.2 Continued membership of GHCOS will allow Tewkesbury Borough Council to maintain its influence on important health issues. Through membership, this Council is able to act as an advocate for the communities in the Borough.

5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 None.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 None.

7.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES

7.1 Health and Wellbeing Strategy

8.0 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES

8.1 The Localism Act promotes joint working and the need for local Councils to act as advocates for their communities.

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)

9.1 £2,500 annual contribution.

10.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (Social/Community Safety/Cultural/ Economic/ Environment)

10.1 None.

11.0 IMPACT UPON (Value For Money/Equalities/E-Government/Human Rights/Health

And Safety)

11.1 Involvement in GHCOS helps to identify and improve any health, care and wellbeing issues.

12.0 RELATED DECISIONS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTS

12.1 None.

Background Papers: None

Contact Officer: Graeme Simpson, Corporate Services Group Manager
01684 272002 graeme.simpson@teWKesbury.gov.uk

Appendices: None