
West Berkshire Council Health Scrutiny Committee Protocol

Committee considering report:	Health Scrutiny Committee
Date of Committee:	14 June 2022
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Tom Marino
Report Author:	Gordon Oliver / Vicky Phoenix
Forward Plan Ref:	OSMC/HSC

1 Purpose of the Report

The report presents a final protocol that sets out how the West Berkshire Health Scrutiny Committee will work with bodies who commission or provide health and wellbeing services to residents of West Berkshire.

2 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

1. Endorse the final protocol and the process for dealing with proposed substantial developments of variations to health services.
2. Recommend the protocol for approval by the Health Scrutiny Committee.

3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
Financial:	There are no financial implications arising from this report.
Human Resource:	There are no HR implications arising from this report.
Legal:	The protocol sets out an approach to working with health partners, which is consistent with current legislation.
Risk Management:	There are no risks arising from the report. The protocol should actually reduce risks by providing clarity on what constitutes substantial variations or developments in delivery of health

	services and ensuring that proper scrutiny of such proposals takes place.			
Property:	There are no property implications associated with the report.			
Policy:	The report is consistent with national guidance on health scrutiny. The proposed protocol will help to achieve effective health scrutiny, which in turn will help to ensure that the priorities and objectives of the Berkshire West Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy are delivered.			
	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equalities Impact:				
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		✓		The protocol will help to ensure that the needs of all service users are taken into account when variations or developments in health services are proposed.
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		✓		
Environmental Impact:		✓		There are no environmental impacts arising from this report.
Health Impact:	✓			The protocol will help to ensure effective health scrutiny of proposed variations and developments in health services that are considered likely to have substantial impacts for residents of West Berkshire.

ICT Impact:		✓		There are no ICT impacts arising from this report.
Digital Services Impact:		✓		There are no digital services impacts arising from this report.
Council Strategy Priorities:	✓			<p>The protocol will help to ensure effective health scrutiny of proposed variations and developments in health services that are considered likely to have substantial impacts for residents of West Berkshire.</p> <p>This in turn will support the Council Strategy priority to ‘support everyone to reach their full potential’. In particular, it will help with the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improve the health and wellbeing of our residents - improve mental health and wellbeing
Core Business:		✓		There are no core business impacts arising from this report.
Data Impact:		✓		There are no data impacts arising from this report.
Consultation and Engagement:	Health partners were consulted on the draft Health Scrutiny Protocol.			

4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 The consultation on the draft protocol has now taken place. No objections or suggested amendments were received and so it is proposed for the protocol to be approved.
- 4.2 Following the Health Scrutiny Committee on 5 April 2022 there have been some amendments to the protocol. This is to clarify the purpose of the protocol as set of working principals of West Berkshire Council and relevant health bodies rather than a signed agreement.

5 Supporting Information

Background

- 5.2 The draft protocol was approved for consultation at the Health Scrutiny Committee on 10 November 2021.
- 5.3 The draft protocol was sent to all relevant health bodies on 19 November 2021 with a request for responses by 7 January 2022.
- 5.4 The draft protocol was sent to West Berkshire Primary Care Networks, Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, NHS Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), NHS England and NHS Improvement South East, Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust and South Central Ambulance Service.
- 5.5 A joint response was received from Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust. They were supportive of the protocol with no amendments sought.
- 5.6 Responses were not received from the other health bodies by the 7 January 2022 deadline. We will re-engage with health bodies who we have not yet heard from after the establishment of the ICS on 1st July 2022.

Proposals

- 5.7 The protocol is included in Appendix A. The aim of this protocol is to provide:
 - Improved engagement and communication across all parties;
 - Clear standards which set out how all parties will work together;
 - Greater confidence in the planning for service change, to secure improved outcomes for health services and communities across West Berkshire.
- 5.8 It is proposed that the protocol be approved with no further amendments.

6 Other options considered

- 6.1 The requirement to develop a protocol is set out in the HSC Terms of Reference, so to 'do nothing' is not considered to be an option.
- 6.2 The Committee could re-consult with those health bodies that did not respond to the consultation. However this is not considered necessary, particularly in light of the fact that no proposed changes have been requested by those who have responded.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 Creation of a Health Scrutiny Protocol would be a positive step in terms of improving communication between the HSC and local health bodies and having agreed actions and processes to be followed whenever a change in local health services is proposed.

8 Appendices

Appendix A – Draft Protocol between the West Berkshire Health Scrutiny Committee and commissioners and providers of health and wellbeing services to the population of West Berkshire.

Background Papers:

Health Scrutiny Committee papers from 10 November 2021

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: No:

- The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval
- Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council
- Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position
- Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or associated Task Groups within preceding six months
- Item is Urgent Key Decision
- Report is to note only

Wards affected: All wards

Officer details:

Name: Gordon Oliver
Job Title: Principal Policy Officer
Tel No: 01635 519486
E-mail: gordon.oliver1@westberks.gov.uk

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