

COMMITTEE: HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 10TH OCTOBER 2006

REPORT OF: THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (STRATEGY,
PERFORMANCE & GOVERNANCE)

REPORT TITLE: HEALTH SCRUTINY PROTOCOLS

1.0 Purpose

1.1 This report informs the Committee of work in hand to develop Health Scrutiny Protocols in Stockport and invites the Committee to comment on the proposed activities.

2.0 Information

2.1 The Centre for Public Scrutiny is running a Department of Health-funded support programme for Health Scrutiny committees. The Practical Advice section of the programme provides health scrutiny experts drawn from across the local government and health sectors, who offer five days support to work on particular projects.

2.2 Following discussion with the Chair and Vice-Chair, Stockport's Health Scrutiny Committee is planning to revisit our health scrutiny protocols. Graham Jones has been commissioned by the Centre for Public Scrutiny to provide support to Stockport's Health Scrutiny Committee. Graham is a former Health Authority Director and currently a lecturer in health and social care at the University of Sheffield. Graham facilitated the recent Health Scrutiny Awareness Day which members of the Committee may have attended.

2.3 Protocols will set out:

- Working principles, such as a shared vision for scrutiny, and definition of the role of scrutiny.
- Processes for scrutiny, such as how the Committee finds out about local developments, definitions of substantial variation, how the NHS will respond to Scrutiny recommendations, and other matters.

2.4 The expected benefits of are:

- Stronger working relationship with local health partners.
- Greater understanding of health scrutiny.
- Addressing specific matters such as definitions of substantial variation, or whether agenda items are tabled at Health Scrutiny Committee, Adults & Communities Scrutiny Committee, or both.

2.5 Graham will be meeting with a range of stakeholders throughout late October in order to present draft protocols to the Health Scrutiny Committee in November. Following discussion of the draft protocols we will present these to partner organisations (the PCT, Foundation Trust and Patients' Forums) to be agreed.

- 2.6 It is suggested that Graham carry out interviews with the following people during late October:
- The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee, the Scrutiny Officer, and Head of Policy.
 - The Council Secretariat.
 - The Chief Executive of the PCT and the Chair of the PCT Board.
 - The Director of Public Health, Dr Stephen Watkins.
 - Darren Hurrell, Dir. of Modernisation, FT.
 - NHS Patient Advice and Liaison Service managers.
 - Patient's Forum members.

3.0 **Recommendation**

- 3.1 The Committee is invited to comment on the report.

Further information

To discuss this report or for further information please contact Andrew Burrige, by telephone on 0161 474 3183 by e-mail at andrew.burridge@stockport.gov.uk.