

STOCKPORT COUNCIL

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE MEETING – SUMMARY SHEET

Subject: Scrutiny Review of Podiatry Services

Report to: Executive Meeting **Date:** 28th September 2009

Report of: (a) Executive Councillor, Adults & Health

Key Decision: (b) NO

Forward Plan General Exception Special Urgency (Tick box)

Summary:

The Health Scrutiny review of Podiatry Services produced a list of six recommendations that have been responded to by the PCT and given timescales. The recommendations and PCT's response to each recommendation are attached in the accompanying report.

Comments/Views of the Executive Councillor: (c)

Although the recommendations are for actions by Stockport PCT, I must emphasise the importance of podiatry services in support of older people. In particular, we are committed to supporting the independence of older people. Maintaining mobility is crucial and access to podiatry services is vital. Other service users – for example people with disabilities – also have needs for effective services. Whilst outside the scope of the review the demands for and cost of inappropriate referrals to orthopaedic departments are also a consequence of good podiatric services.

Recommendation(s) of Executive Councillor: (d)

That the Executive supports the recommendations arising from consideration by Stockport NHS and Stockport Community Health

Relevant Scrutiny Committee (if decision called in): (e) Health Scrutiny Committee

Background Papers (if report for publication): (f)

Contact person for accessing background papers and discussing the report

Officer: Gaynor Alexander
Tel: 0161 474 3186

'Urgent Business': (g) NO

Scrutiny Review – Executive Response Template

Scrutiny Committee:	Health Scrutiny Committee
Review title:	Scrutiny Review of Podiatry Services in Stockport
Date Completed:	April 2009
Officer responsible for response:	Laura Browse, Associate Director, Commissioning, Primary & Community Services Morag Bardsley, Head of Podiatry

This is the agreed response of the Executive to the Scrutiny Committee review

Original Recommendation	Agreed Response	Timescale
1.1 That the Health Scrutiny Committee congratulates the Podiatry Services for its excellent performance.	NHS Stockport and Stockport Community Health thanks Health Scrutiny for this comment.	
1.2 That the Health Scrutiny Committee registers its concern with regard to the Podiatry Service's capacity in the long term to manage the increasing demand for podiatry whilst retaining current standards of service delivery, in light of the ageing population, increase in cases of diabetes and likely staff retirements.	<p>The Podiatry service will continue to work within given guidelines. The Eligibility Criteria to access the service will continue to be reviewed to ensure the service can be delivered. However NHS Stockport and Stockport Community Health recognises these concerns and expects an increase in demand.</p> <p>The recently published "Affordable Footcare" paper is currently being reviewed to understand the implications for patients, particularly in relation to continuing to provide services for non-priority groups.</p>	<p>Annually</p> <p>December 09</p>
1.3 That the Health Scrutiny Committee registers its concern over the future level of funding for Podiatry Services, particularly in light of the increasing demand for	Podiatry services will continue to be delivered in line with NICE guidelines. However, future funding for the Podiatry Services will be considered in the context of	Ongoing

Original Recommendation	Agreed Response	Timescale
<p>podiatry and other long term challenges the service faces.</p>	<p>NHS Stockport's financial constraints.</p>	
<p>1.4 The Primary Care Trust be recommended to undertake education of GPs to increase their awareness of the work carried out by the Podiatry Service and its value to health in general.</p>	<p>NHS Stockport will arrange dedicated training sessions for GPs to increase their awareness of work carried out. The training will be supported by Morag Bardsley Head of Podiatry. GPs will be requested to cascade this education within their practices.</p>	<p>09/10</p>
<p>1.5 That the Podiatry Service and Primary Care Trust explore further measures to reduce the rate of people failing to attend podiatry appointments.</p>	<p>The Podiatry Services has developed a new access policy in order to address DNA (did not attend) rates. The service is also working with key representatives from ethnic groups to identify any issues to address.</p>	<p>July 2009 December 09</p>
<p>1.6 That the Health Scrutiny Committee be recommended to undertake a further review of the Podiatry Service in three to five years to evaluate any change in the current excellent performance of the Service.</p>	<p>NHS Stockport and Stockport Community Health welcomes podiatry being a focus for a further review in the next 3-5 years.</p>	<p>2011 – 12 2014 – 15</p>