

**Access to Health Services (to include waiting lists for GP's and hospitals)**

**Report of the Strategic Head of Service (Legal & Democratic Governance and Monitoring Officer)**

**1 Purpose**

- 1.1 The panel are minded to consider the recovery activity and plans proposed to reduce waiting lists for NHS services to pre-pandemic levels, in light of emergency care demands, additional pressures on the NHS related to the Covid-19 response and workforce challenges.
- 1.2 The panel will agree the scope of the review, methodology, sources of evidence and witnesses to be called.

**2 Background**

- 2.1 The review topic was selected by Members following concerns from residents across the borough over access to the medical landscape, the current wait time on appointments for GP's/ specialised appointments at hospitals and the effect this was having on A&E
- 2.2 There is a recognition that the Covid-19 pandemic has substantially contributed to growing waiting times and a drop in routine NHS activity, with many services paused or operating at reduced capacity because of the pandemic.
- 2.3 This view is supported by a body of evidence that demonstrates the link between the wider backlog of patients waiting for health services and the pandemic response.
- 2.4 The NHS Foundation Trust is developing recovery plans to address the increasing backlogs and waiting times which will be shared for Members comment and suggestions.

**3 Aims of the Scrutiny Review**

- 3.1 Subject to agreement, the panel will aim to understand the extent of waiting lists for appointments to NHS Foundation Trust services and explore any solutions that could be recommended by the Scrutiny Review panel to improve access to the medical landscape and reduce wait times for appointments in Stockport.
- 3.2 There are many components and challenges that affect the equitable provision of good quality health services. As such the initial step must be to understand the extent, quality of and demand for existing provision.

**4 Membership**

- 4.1 The scrutiny review panel will consist of:
  - Councillor John Wright
  - Councillor Angie Clark
  - Councillor Helen Foster-Grime

- Councillor Dickie Davies
- Supported by Georgia Latham, Ben Fryer, Angela Dawber and Gillian Miller

## **5 Timetable**

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Scrutiny Review be undertaken as two half day sessions, the first of which is focussed on Secondary Care (Hospitals) held on 17 January 2022 and the second focussed on Primary Care held on 9 February 2022.
- 5.2 It is the aim that the review will be concluded and findings reported to the meeting of Adult Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee on 3 March 2022, which is the last meeting of the municipal year.
- 5.3 The Panel will be asked to determine whether the two sessions are sufficient to conduct the review and discuss if they feel any further meetings are required and the dates for those meetings.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

There are none

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Georgia Latham on Tel: 0161 474 3229 or by email on [georgia.latham@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:georgia.latham@stockport.gov.uk)