

**HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
2 FEBRUARY 2012**

**WORKING GROUPS UPDATE REPORT
Assistant Chief Executive**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the Working Groups of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel notes the progress achieved to date by the Panel's Working Groups.**

3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Health Reforms

- 3.1 The Working Group comprises Councillors Finch (Lead Member), Mrs Angell, Mrs Barnard and Virgo. It has been formed to monitor the implementation of the major changes from the 2010 NHS White Paper and the Health and Social Care Bill, with a particular focus on the transfer of public health responsibilities to the Council. The Working Group has held two meetings to date, most recently on 17 November. The Group has decided to suspend further meetings of the Working Group until the legislative changes become known.

Health and Wellbeing Strategy

- 3.2 The Working Group comprises Councillors Virgo (Lead Member), Baily, Finch, and Mrs Temperton; and Mr Pearce. It has been formed to make an input to the Council's statutory 'Health and Wellbeing' strategy. The Working Group has held two meetings to date, most recently on 6 December. The Group has decided to meet next after the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment has been finalised.

'Shaping the Future' of Health Services in East Berkshire

- 3.3 The Chairman has decided to form a Working Group to consider the forthcoming major consultation by NHS Berkshire (Primary Care Trust) and Heatherwood & Wexham Park Hospitals Trust on 'Shaping the Future'. This is aimed at reconfiguring healthcare services in response to the changing national and local clinical priorities. All members of the Health O&S Panel have been asked whether they would like to join the Working Group. The planned timetable for the consultation has been deferred by the NHS, and the Working Group has not yet been formed. Meanwhile, the Chairman is in discussions with the Chairmen of the Health Scrutiny Committees for Buckinghamshire County Council, Slough BC, and RB Windsor & Maidenhead to explore whether the Joint East Berkshire Health O&S Committee should be re-formed to consider and respond to the consultation.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED/ ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS/ EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT/ STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES / OTHER OFFICERS/ CONSULTATION – Not applicable

Background Papers

None

Contact for further information

Richard Beaumont – 01344 352283

e-mail: richard.beaumont@bracknell-forest.gov.uk