

**HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
3 OCTOBER 2013**

**WORKING GROUPS UPDATE
Assistant Chief Executive**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel:

- 2.1 Notes the progress achieved to date by the Panel's Working Groups.**

3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Francis Report

- 3.1 The Francis Inquiry followed a series of investigations and reports, including an investigation by the Healthcare Commission in 2009 and an independent inquiry also conducted by Robert Francis QC. The failings at Stafford Hospital have been well reported in the media. The number of excess deaths between 2005 and 2008 is estimated at 492 people. Examples of poor care include patients being left in soiled bedclothes for lengthy periods, lack of assistance with eating and drinking, filthy wards and toilets, lack of privacy and dignity such as people left naked in a public ward, and triage in A&E undertaken by untrained staff. The report describes the failings as a 'disaster' and 'one of the worst examples of bad quality service delivery imaginable'.
- 3.2 The Working Group comprises Councillors Mrs McCracken (Lead Member), Mrs Angell, Angell, Baily, Kensall, Mrs Temperton, and Virgo. The Working Group has decided its objectives are to:
- Thoroughly review the weaknesses in O&S highlighted by the report by Mr Francis concerning the failings in Mid Staffordshire, showing that Bracknell Forest Council has responded properly to the lessons it offers.
 - Determine the type and frequency of information (particularly on complaints) needed from principal NHS organisations serving Bracknell Forest residents.
 - Re-appraise Members' health O&S role, and identify how to improve their effectiveness (to include training, advice and support)
 - Identify improvements to Health O&S practices, including prioritisation and the summing up and minuting of Health O&S Panel meetings.
- 3.3 The Working Group held its first meeting on 7 May. Matters covered to date have included: a background briefing by officers; discussing the review's approach with a representative of the Centre for Public Scrutiny; agreeing the main issues to be addressed, the scope and approach to the review; analysing the specific issues to be addressed from the Francis report; and agreeing an allocation of responsibilities for

work streams. A visit was made to a meeting of Surrey County Council's Health O&S Committee, and separate meetings have been held with representatives of Royal Berkshire Hospital, Frimley Park Hospital, South Central Ambulance Service and Bracknell & Ascot Clinical Commissioning Group, to learn about their progress in applying the lessons from the Francis report, and explore the information requirements for O&S.

- 3.4 The next meeting of the Working Group is planned for 7 October, with representatives of Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals, also the Executive Member for Adult Services, Health and Housing. Further meetings are in the course of being arranged, with the Working Group aiming to present its report to the Health O&S Panel in January 2014.

The Brants Bridge Health Facility

- 3.5 The Panel's Work Programme for 2013/14 includes forming a Working Group to review the operation of the cancer and renal facilities, also the creation of the Urgent Care Centre at Brants Bridge, Bracknell. It is currently planned to commence this review once the Working Group on the Francis Report has concluded its work.

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

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