

**TO: HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL  
12 MARCH 2015**

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**REPRISE OF PAST PANEL WORK  
Chairman of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To receive a reprise of the Panel's work and activities over the past four years and to thank Panel Members for their contribution.

**2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 **That the Panel notes the summary of its work and activities over the past four years.**

**3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 To highlight the Panel's work and activities over the past four years and to thank Members for their contribution.

**4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 None.

**5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 5.1 Over the past four years the Panel continued to take a close interest in the performance of National Health Service organisations serving Bracknell Forest residents. The Panel also reviewed the Quarterly Service Reports of the Adult Social Care, Health and Housing department relating to health activities. In recent years the Panel has devoted much time scrutinising the action planned and taken by Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Trust in response to highly critical inspection reports issued on it by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and monitoring the progress of Frimley Park Hospital NHS Trust's acquisition of it. Since the Council assumed Public Health functions, the Panel has reviewed these and other activities that contribute to health improvements in the Borough. The Panel has responded to Quality Accounts relating to the NHS Trusts providing services in Bracknell Forest.
- 5.2 The Panel has also responded to budget consultations, monitored scheduled key and non-key Executive decisions and contributed to the development of its work programmes.
- 5.3 Working Groups were established by the Panel to review health reforms, consider the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, respond to the 'Shaping the Future' of NHS services in East Berkshire consultation and applying the lessons from the Francis Report.
- 5.4 The Panel formed the Health Reforms Working Group 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. Having completed its detailed monitoring role, the Working Group decided that future monitoring should be carried out by the Panel.

- 5.5 The Health and Wellbeing Strategy Working Group was established to make an input to the Council's statutory Health and Wellbeing Strategy and to monitor the creation of the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Working Group concluded its work by providing its views on the draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- 5.6 A Working Group was formed to consider the major consultation by NHS Berkshire (Primary Care Trust) and Heatherwood & Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Trust concerning 'Shaping the Future' of health services in East Berkshire. This culminated in the Working Group supporting, with some caveats, the three principal proposals for service change. The Working Group formulated with the relevant Executive Member a response to the consultation which was adopted by full Council on 23 January 2013. The Primary Care Trust Board meeting on 26 March 2013 determined to proceed with all the proposed service changes.
- 5.7 The Francis Report Working Group was set up as a direct result of the Francis report into the Mid-Staffordshire Hospital crisis and the deficiencies it highlighted in the Health O&S function of the local authorities in that region. The review was not convened through any concerns that Bracknell Forest's arrangements were in any way lacking but rather to determine whether there were areas where our O&S practices could be enhanced in light of the Francis report and recommendations. The review was very wide ranging and formulated 15 recommendations regarding areas including a refreshed statement of the aim and objectives of Health O&S and the role of Members; adopting a selective and tiered approach to scrutiny of local NHS service providers; Panel Members developing specialist knowledge of an area of NHS activity; health O&S training; obtaining independent expert clinician advice; improved information flow; exception reporting and flagging of concerns; relaying of properly prepared and approved health information and issues to residents; complaints to the NHS Trusts; the format of Panel meetings; involvement with Healthwatch Bracknell Forest; and closer contact with the local CQC manager and events. The implementation of the recommendations is ongoing.
- 5.8 During the past four years Members received a general induction, specific health scrutiny induction and further training in the areas of chairing / leadership, questioning and listening skills to assist them to undertake their O&S role successfully.
- 5.9 I would like to thank Panel Members for their work and support over the past four years.

## **6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS / EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT / STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES / CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 Not applicable.

Background Papers - None.

Contact for further information

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