



Committee and date

Annual Council

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Item No

11

Public

Membership of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee with Telford and Wrekin Council

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Summary

This paper presents proposals to amend the representation of Shropshire Council's Health Overview and Crime Reduction Scrutiny Committee ("HOCRSC") on the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee ("Joint Committee") with Telford and Wrekin Council. The representation is currently six Shropshire Council Members. It is proposed to change this to three co-opted and three full members of the HOCRSC.

It also proposes the introduction of a specific Scheme (attached as an Appendix A) to enable the three co-opted members of the HOCRSC to vote but, only as members of the Joint Committee and on matters relating to changes to Health Services in Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin including changes to Mental Health Services. They will not have voting rights on the HOCRSC.

Recommendations

- A. To agree that two individuals with specific and detailed knowledge of the NHS should be co-opted to the Health Overview and Crime Reduction Scrutiny Committee.
- B. That the representation for Shropshire Council on the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be amended to three co-opted members and three councillors.
- C. That the Scheme set out in the Appendix for the granting of voting rights to the co-opted members of the Joint Committee be approved, on the understanding that their voting rights will only apply to matters relating to changes to Health Services in Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin.
- D. That the Constitution is amended to reflect agreement of the above recommendations.

Report

Context

1. In coming months the Joint Committee will be considering proposals for changes to NHS services, mostly based in the Royal Shrewsbury and Princess Royal Hospitals.
2. The focus of the work will include formal consultation with the Joint Committee by Telford and Wrekin PCT and Shropshire County PCT. The Joint Committee will be required to produce a joint report setting out where there is consensus on the proposals between the representatives of the two councils, and where there are differences in terms of responding to the proposed changes to services.

Change in Membership

3. Telford and Wrekin Council have appointed three co-opted members to work alongside three elected members as their representatives on the joint committee. Their three co-opted members have detailed knowledge of the NHS including direct experience of managing NHS services at a senior level. They have also been granted voting rights on the Joint Committee by Telford and Wrekin Council
4. It is proposed that Shropshire Council adopt the same model as Telford and Wrekin Council in order to ensure that Shropshire People, represented through the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, have a strong voice that includes substantial working knowledge of the NHS.
5. In order to do this it is proposed to increase the number of co-optees to the Health Overview and Crime Reduction Scrutiny Committee by two to six. These would be "time and subject" limited appointments related to the changes to NHS services (including Mental Health Services) that are being developed and will be formally consulted on. The two new co-optees would have substantial working knowledge of the NHS which will add significant value to the work of the elected members. They would join an existing co-opted member of the Health Overview and Crime Reduction Scrutiny Committee, the Chair and CEO of the Shropshire Local Involvement Network who has similar knowledge, on the Joint Committee.

Scheme

6. It is proposed that the three co-optees to the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be given voting rights inline with paragraph 12 of Schedule 1 to the Local Government Act 2000 (which provides that an overview and scrutiny committee can give voting rights to co-opted members provided a Scheme is agreed by the Council)].
7. The proposed Scheme is attached as an appendix A.

Conclusion

8. Changes to Health Services and access to those services can have significant impacts on communities. The proposed changes to the NHS service in Shropshire that are expected to be consulted on during 2010-2011 could see locations of services move, and the way services are provided also change e.g. more services provided in the community and closer to home.
9. In light of the consultation and the important role that the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny plays in responding to proposed changes in services it is important to ensure that the elected members representing the Shropshire Council are supported by Co-optees who can add value through their knowledge and experience of the NHS.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Human Rights Act Appraisal

The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights act 1998
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Environmental Appraisal

There are no environmental issues associated with this report

Risk Management Appraisal

There may be a risk to the reputation of the Council should changes affecting local Health services in the Shropshire Council area not be fully and effectively considered and represented through the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Harnessing the correct experience and skills to supplement elected member knowledge will be essential.

Community / Consultations Appraisal
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There are no consultation requirements associated with this report.

Cabinet Member

Simon Jones

Health Overview & Crime Reduction Scrutiny Chair

Gerald Dakin

Local Member

All

Appendices

Appendix A - Scheme

Appendix

SCHEME MADE UNDER PARAGRAPH 12 OF SCHEDULE 1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000

SCHEME TO GIVE VOTING RIGHTS TO CO-OPTED MEMBERS OF THE JOINT HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WITH TELFORD AND WREKIN COUNCIL

In accordance with Paragraph 12 of Schedule 1 to the Local Government act 2000 (as amended by section 115 of the Local Government Act 2003) Shropshire Council has determined that its three co-opted members of the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee with the Borough of Telford and Wrekin Council (that is those members of the joint committee who are not elected members of the Shropshire Council) shall have permission to vote in accordance with this Scheme. [The Scheme does not provide the three co-opted members with voting rights on the Health Overview and Crime Reduction Scrutiny Committee.]

The co-opted members can only exercise their right to vote in respect of matters relating to the re-configuration of health services, including changes to Mental Health Services currently subject to consultation by the Telford and Wrekin PCT and Shropshire PCT. When the matter of the re-configuration of health services has been determined, this Scheme will be revoked

Dated