

JOINT HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 8th OCTOBER 2010

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE TELFORD AND WREKIN AND
SHROPSHIRE JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

REPORT OF SCRUTINY MANAGER, TELFORD AND WREKIN COUNCIL

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To enable Members to consider updated terms of reference for the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members consider and agree the terms of reference attached as Appendix 1.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Health and Social Care Act (2001) enables two or more local authorities to appoint a joint committee to exercise Health Scrutiny powers. The Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin was established a number of years ago and the current terms of reference were agreed in 2003. The terms of reference attached as Appendix 1 update the work programme for the committee and recognises that both Council's have agreed a voting scheme for co-opted members.

4.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- 4.1 Members will consider the impact of proposed NHS service changes across communities and for minority groups across both local authority areas.

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 5.1 There are no environmental impacts directly arising as a result of this report.

6.0 LEGAL COMMENT

- 6.1 Section 8 of the Health & Social Care Act 2001 provides for joint committees to be formed between relevant authorities to exercise overview and scrutiny functions under section 21 Local Government Act 2000 in respect of health services in the area.

7.0 LINKS WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 7.1 Proposed changes to NHS services may have an impact on a number of corporate priorities but the main connection will be through Adult Care and Support.

8.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no specific resources identified for the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the associated costs will have to be met from within existing scrutiny budgets. The terms of reference state that the administration of the Committee will be shared by Telford & Wrekin Council and Shropshire Council and also that each local authority will identify an agreed resource to support the work of the Committee – as this includes specialist advice this could lead to a future budget pressure. The position will be monitored and reported through the financial monitoring and service and financial planning processes.

9.0 OPPORTUNITIES AND RISKS

- 9.1 Health Scrutiny has real influence on the services for local people. This is most effective when Committees take a constructive but challenging approach to the role.

10.0 WARD IMPLICATIONS

- 10.0 The framework would apply to proposed changes in health services across both local authority areas.

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