

CABINET

23 NOVEMBER 2016

ESTABLISHMENT OF A HEALTH SCRUTINY JOINT COMMITTEE BETWEEN SOUTH TYNESIDE AND SUNDERLAND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Joint report of the Director of Policy and Partnerships and Head of Law and Governance

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The report outlines the proposals, including a protocol and terms of reference for the establishment and operation of a Health Scrutiny Joint Committee between Sunderland and South Tyneside Local Authorities.

2. Description of Decision (Recommendations)

- 2.1 To recommend Council

- (1) to establish a Health Scrutiny Joint Committee with South Tyneside Council for the purpose of consultation in relation to reconfiguration proposals of South Tyneside and Sunderland Health Care Group and to approve the proposed protocol and terms of reference for the Joint Committee, as set out in the report.
- (2) to appoint the Council's representatives to the Joint Committee.

3. Background

- 3.1 City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust and South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust, between them serve a population of 430,000 people across a large geographical area south of Tyne & Wear and have for many years collaborated to jointly provide some clinical services. Both organisations now believe that to protect the future sustainability of healthcare across both communities, requires more significant transformation leading to greater integration of services, and that this needs to be delivered at speed and scale.
- 3.2 South Tyneside and Sunderland Foundation Trusts have agreed to form and implement a health alliance, working together as "South Tyneside and Sunderland Healthcare Group", embarking on a programme of reconfiguring services across South of Tyne delivering the best patient outcomes.
- 3.3 The proposals were announced on 1st March 2016 and both Sunderland and South Tyneside Overview and Scrutiny functions have held a number of informal joint meetings to discuss in more detail the proposals and the implementation plans of the trusts.

4. Current Position

- 4.1 The Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 requires local authorities to appoint joint committees where a relevant NHS body or health service provider consults more than one local authority health scrutiny function in relation to substantial reconfiguration proposals.
- 4.2 It is only the joint committee which may respond to the consultation, rather than the individual local authority health scrutiny functions and only the joint committee will have the power to require the provision of information by the relevant NHS body in relation to the proposal, or the attendance of members or employees of the relevant NHS body to answer questions connected to the consultation.
- 4.3 It should be noted that the restrictions need not apply to the authorities' respective powers to make referrals to the Secretary of State in connection with the proposals, and that the protocol reserves this power of referral to each of the constituent authorities individually.
- 4.4 The protocol and terms of reference for the establishment of a Health Scrutiny Joint Committee between South Tyneside and Sunderland are set out at Appendix 1 of this report.
- 4.5 It is proposed that the Joint Committee arrangements be reviewed after 3 years' operation in order to consider whether they are still required.

5. Reasons for the Decision

- 5.1 The Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 requires local authorities to appoint joint committees where a relevant NHS body or health service provider consults more than one local authority health scrutiny function in relation to substantial reconfiguration proposals.

6. Alternative Options

- 6.1 The decision is in line with local government regulations and as such there are no alternatives to be considered.

7. Impact Analysis

Equalities

- 7.1 Any equality issues will be addressed by the Health Scrutiny Joint Committee and relevant NHS bodies throughout the consultation process and life of the joint committee.

Privacy Impact Assessment

- 7.2 The proposals have no immediate additional implications for the protection of privacy of the public.

Sustainability

7.3 The proposals have no immediate implications for sustainability.

Reduction of Crime & Disorder - Community Cohesion / Social Inclusion

7.4 The proposals have no immediate implications in terms of reduction of crime and disorder.

8. Relevant Considerations / Consultations

8.1 There are no additional considerations or consultations in relation to this report.

9. Background Papers

The Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013

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