



Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee, 1st February, 2006

Scrutiny Board 4 (Health) – progress report

Summary

1. Health Scrutiny has made good progress this year, but its work plan has been affected by an unprecedented number of statutory NHS consultations.

Work completed and underway

2. Health Scrutiny has already completed two major reports, and is on track to complete four more before the end of the civic year.
3. Completed reports:
 - a. *Response to the consultation on the smoke free elements of the Health Improvement and Protection Bill*, published August 2005. This report is significant for a number of reasons. First, it involved commissioning Council officers unconnected to scrutiny to develop and undertake research on behalf of a scrutiny board [in this case, City Development's Research and Strategy Team]. Second, it contained original research of local and national significance, including a mapping exercise and questionnaire. Third, it was delivered in ten weeks.
 - b. *Response to the Coventry Teaching Primary Care Trust consultation, "Coventry City Centre Health Services"*, published November 2005. This consultation response relates to proposals for a new health facility in the city centre, to be procured via the public private partnership LIFT scheme. By consulting a wide range of stakeholders, the Board agreed well-developed response to this complex issue. The consultation paper was considered at all the city's Area Forums.
4. Health Scrutiny has also responded to the NHS consultation *Local Solutions for Complex Needs: Proposals for developing medium secure mental health services for men in the West Midlands*.
5. Health Scrutiny has also contributed comments to the Healthcare Commission Annual Health Checks for all the local NHS Trusts. Preparation for this work included a joint seminar with Warwickshire councillors, patient and public involvement forum members and representatives from the Healthcare Commission
6. Health Scrutiny has hosted a Q&A session with local NHS chief executives, and held an additional Q&A session with UHCW Chief Executive David Roberts. Another Q&A session may be arranged for spring 2006, but it seems sensible to fold this in with responses to the various ongoing and forthcoming consultations.
7. The Board has received presentations on school nutrition, tobacco control and the development of the NHS. Planning has begun for an event provisionally titled *Health Inequalities in Coventry*, to involve the West Midlands Regional Director of Public Health, to be held after the appointment of a new Coventry Director of Public Health.

8. Work in progress:

- a. *Increasing the initiation and duration of breastfeeding in Coventry and Warwickshire.* This externally funded review is in its final stages, with a small number of tasks remaining. A final report will come to health scrutiny in March/April 2006. This review has been marked by high levels of engagement with the NHS locally, close partnership working with Warwickshire County Council and excellent support from Coventry University.
- b. *Response to NHS consultations on new Strategic Health Authority and Primary Care Trust arrangements in the West Midlands, and the configuration of Ambulance Trusts in England.* These consultations were not part of the health scrutiny work plan agreed at the start of the year. The Board has agreed to concentrate its efforts on the consultation on the ambulance services, as this will have the most direct effect on Coventry. Again working closely with Warwickshire County Council, the Board has engaged support from frontline ambulance service staff, patient groups and Warwick Medical School. This consultation is being considered by the city's Area Forums. In collaboration with The Board will agree its response at its meeting on 15 March.
- c. *Review of care pathways for older people through acute settings.* This review is at an early stage. Its launch has been delayed by the other NHS consultations. Health Scrutiny anticipates that it will have procured external support for the review before the end of the civic year, but that the review may not be completed until summer 2006. The proposed methodology includes close collaboration with the academic and voluntary sectors.

9. Forthcoming work:

- a. *Consultation on proposals to establish a mental health trust in Coventry and Warwickshire.* This consultation was due to be launched in early 2006 but has been delayed by the Department of Health. This consultation was not part of the health scrutiny work plan at the start of the year. The consultation will last twelve weeks. If the consultation is launched in time for the meeting on 15 February, health scrutiny will seek to agree its response at the meeting on 12 April.
- b. *Consultation on proposals for University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust to apply for Foundation Trust Status.* This consultation, which was not part of the health scrutiny work plan, is due to launch in February 2006. UHCW have indicated their preference for consulting Coventry City Council and Warwickshire County Council jointly, and thus a separate event may be arranged. The Board will seek to agree its response to the consultation at its meeting on 12 April.
- c. *Consultation on the outcome of the NHS acute services review for Coventry and Warwickshire.* A consultation on proposals from the acute services review is due to launch in March/April 2006. This consultation will be considered at the Board's meeting on 12 April 2006, but a response will not be agreed until the new civic year.

10. As a result of the unprecedented number of NHS consultations, the planned second discretionary review will not take place this year.