

Resource and legal considerations:

In accordance with the constitution the panel may establish working groups to consider specific issues in detail.

Citizen impact:

All citizens with a relevant interest in a matter will have the ability to contribute to the deliberations of a Scrutiny Panel.

Environmental impact:

Successful scrutiny can assist in shaping policy to make environmental improvements.

Performance management:

Scrutiny is an important and integral part of the council's performance management framework and can challenge review and advise on service delivery, council activity and policy and improve results.

Equality Implications:

All citizens with a relevant interest in a matter will have the ability to contribute to the deliberations of a Scrutiny and Performance Panel.

Consultation:

Based on previous discussions of the panel.

Vision 2008:

The work to be undertaken by the sub-committee and working groups will aim to achieve the council's vision.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 At the meeting in November 2004, the Health Scrutiny Panel scoped its work programme with the view to selecting the most critical areas to commence immediate reviews.

2. Issues for consideration

- 2.1 Six issues were identified as possibly having an impact on improving health services in Walsall:

- Reducing infant mortality
- Reducing Teenage conceptions
- Increasing life expectancy
- Increasing breast-feeding
- Reducing obesity
- Increasing access to breast and cervical screening

- 2.2 Given the level of resource available to panel, it was agreed to stagger the work programme and commence a new review when one comes to an end.

- 2.3 The first issue for scrutiny was identified as 'Reducing obesity', which commenced in March 2005 with a joint working group being established with Children's Services and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny and Performance Panel.

- 2.4 The working group is currently focusing its review on childhood obesity and will report its findings in due course.

- 2.5 The panel will need to consider re-establishing this working group to enable the review to be concluded. The membership for 2004/5 was as follows:

Councillor Woodruff
Councillor Robertson
1 representative from Children's Panel
Dr. Ramaiah
Dr. Linnane
Ishbel Murray
Consultant (Jeff Chandra)

- 2.6 The panel is also currently undertaking a review of Mental Health Services in Walsall. This work is near completion and will be considered as the main item on the agenda for this meeting.

3. Proposed Work Programme

- 3.1 The panel may wish to re-affirm the work programme scoped in November 2004 as set out below and agree commencement dates for new reviews and completion dates for currently ongoing reviews.

| | Key Actions | Meeting Date |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| a | Proposed merger of Walsall's and Wolverhampton's hospital trusts | (To be scrutinized by a special Panel established by Council) |
| b | Final report on 'Access to Mental Health Services' | 5 September 2005 |
| c | Reducing obesity | 27 October 2005 |
| d | Breast feeding | Date to be agreed |
| e | Life expectancy | Date to be agreed |
| f | Increasing Breast / Cervical screening | Date to be agreed |
| g | Infant mortality | Date to be agreed |
| h | Teenage conception | (subject to scrutiny by Children's Services and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny and Performance Panel) |

4. Proposed Dates for Future Meetings of Panel

- 4.1 The following dates were approved at the meeting of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny and Performance Panel as possible future dates for the Health Scrutiny Panel.

Monday 5 September 2005
Thursday 27 October 2005
Thursday 12 January 2006
Monday 13 February 2006
Thursday 9 March 2006

5. Resolution

- 5.1 The panel is recommended to:
- a. Note the work of the panel to date.
 - b. Consider the proposed work programme at section 3.1 and agree a programme for 2005/6.
 - c. Re-establish the obesity working group.
 - d. Agree the dates for future meetings of the panel in 2005/6.