

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: CORPORATE SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL
DATE: 10 APRIL

RE: LOCAL GOVERNMENT PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007

Purpose

To consider the implications of the Local Government Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 for overview and scrutiny.

Background

The Local Government Public Involvement in Health (LGPIH) Act 2007 received Royal Assent on the 30 October 2007. The Act introduced a range of legislation that affects local authorities and their partners.

Bhupinder Gill, Assistant Director for Legal and Constitutional Services, will be attending the meeting to give a presentation on specific sections of the act that will be of interest to scrutiny and performance panel Members. This will principally focus on:

- Community Call for Action and including potential for section 236 responsibilities
- Duty to co-operate partners and their 'have regard to' responsibilities
- Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreements

Community Call for Action Working Group

It is important to note that the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny and Performance Panel is currently operating a Community Call for Action Working Group.

The panel appointed a working group to prepare for the introduction of the 'community call for action' that was featured in both the Police and Justice Act 2006 (P&J Act 2006) and LGPIH Act 2007 (previously featured in the Local Government White Paper 'Strong and Prosperous Communities').

The working group have heard now the two call for actions had important differences. The call for action featured in the P&J Act 2006 placed the power for the call for the action in local people as a: 'Community Call for Action'. The call for action featured in the LGPIH Act 2007 placed the power for a call for action in local Members as a: 'Councillor Call for Action'. During reading in the House of Lords the call for action in the P&J Act was amended to be the same as that featured in the LGPIH Act 2007. Therefore both call for actions are now 'Councillor Call for Action's'. However the 'Councillor Calls for Action' from both Acts are still to be introduced subject to a public consultation and the outcome of the Flanagan Review.

The working group recently participated in a consultation being operated by the Department for Communities and Local Government on 'Calls for Action'. A report on the consultation is due on or before 12 June 2008.

It is proposed the working groups continues in the new municipal year to review the results of the government consultation and complete its initial terms of reference in the development of local guidelines for dealing with calls for action in Walsall.

Recommendations

That, subject to any comments Members may wish to make, the Local Government Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

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