

Addendum to Report H023/02

Developing the Health Scrutiny Role

In addition to the general points made by the LGIU & DHN, other issues set out in the consultation document are considered important for the authority to comment upon. These are set out below, with a proposed response.

Planning health overview and scrutiny

Early discussions of future scrutiny plans will, for example, identify that a review of the commissioning strategy of a particular PCT may be better delegated to the local District Council, while joint scrutiny will be appropriate when looking at specialist services like neonatal intensive care, or bone marrow transplants.

Response: In consideration of the close working relationships currently being developed with the 2 PCT's covering the Carlisle District and the importance of 'locality planning', this authority would favour the scrutiny role of PCT's being delegated to the District Council.

Making use of local expertise and sources of information

Early discussions of local priorities for health scrutiny should be informed by available documentation. This could include:

- the local community strategy or plan
- outputs from the Local Modernisation Review
- the most recent report of the Director of Public Health
- any relevant inspection or audit reports
- completed best value reviews
- the intelligence generated through the Patients' Forums and the local network of the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health (CPPIH)
- and, at least for the near future, reports and other information from CHCs.

Response: Endorse the approach that an integral part of the scrutiny process is that of informing the process utilising such documentation as the Local Community Strategy.

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees

There are four possible sets of joint working relationships. The first three are relationships where all the authorities involved have social services functions. They are:

- Two or more authorities may work together
- One authority may delegate to another
- Authorities may co-opt members from other authorities to join their committee as a voting member.

The fourth arrangement includes the involvement of district authorities in scrutiny. This could be achieved via:

- Two or more authorities working together, where one is a district council, to form a single overview and scrutiny committee. (The country will remain in the lead).
- A delegation of functions (but not responsibility) for overview and scrutiny by the country to the district.
- Counties could co-opt district non-executive members on to the country committee as voting members.

Response: Consideration of the differing options to aid flexibility towards efficient scrutiny as set out above, with Members views being sought on their preferred approach.