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Meeting	Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date	3 April 2012
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Health Overview and Scrutiny Framework</b>
Report of	Overview and Scrutiny Office
Summary	This report outlines proposals for guidance to members to help assist in the selection and evaluation of topics and issues to be considered for scrutiny. The proposals develop the health scrutiny framework presented to members at the Scrutiny Aging Well Workshop.

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Officer Contributors	John Murphy, Overview and Scrutiny Officer
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards affected	All
Enclosures	Appendix A - Health Overview and Scrutiny Framework Effective Scrutiny for Better Outcomes
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in	Not applicable
Key decision	No

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## **1. RECOMMENDATION**

- 1.1 That the Committee comment upon the scrutiny framework as set out in appendix A and recommend that the framework is considered by members when selecting items to be addressed by the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

## **2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

- 2.1 None.

## **3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committees/Sub-Committees must ensure that the work of Scrutiny is reflective of the Council's priorities.
- 3.2 The three priority outcomes set out in the 2011/13 Corporate Plan are: –
- Better services with less money
  - Sharing opportunities, sharing responsibilities
  - A successful London suburb

## **4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

- 4.1 None in the context of this report.

## **5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 5.1 In addition to the Terms of Reference of the Committee, and in so far as relating to matters within its remit, the role of the Committee is to perform the Overview and Scrutiny role in relation to:
- The Council's leadership role in relation to diversity and inclusiveness; and
  - The fulfilment of the Council's duties as employer including recruitment and retention, personnel, pensions and payroll services, staff development, equalities and health and safety.

- 5.2 Equality and diversity issues are a mandatory consideration in decision-making in the council pursuant to the Equality Act 2010. This means the council and all other organisations acting on its behalf must have due regard to the equality duties when exercising a public function. The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality and good relations into day to day business requiring equality considerations to be reflected into the design of policies and the delivery of services and for these to be kept under review. Health partners as relevant public bodies must similarly discharge their duties under the Equality Act 2010 and consideration of equalities issues should therefore form part of their reports.

## **6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

- 6.1 The resources available to the council to engage in the scrutiny of issues of importance to the health and well-being of the borough's residents is limited both in terms of monetary resource and staffing capacity. As such the work of overview and scrutiny should be focused on delivering effective scrutiny in as an efficient manner as possible.

6.2 Any financial implications will be contained within the Adults and Health budgets.

## **7. LEGAL ISSUES**

7.1 None in the context of the report.

## **8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS**

8.1 The scope of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees is contained within Part 2, Article 6 of the Council's Constitution; the Terms of Reference of the Scrutiny Committees are included in the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Part 4 of the Council's Constitution).

## **9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

9.1 Accountability remains a critical consideration within the context of the changing health and social care landscape. Within this changing environment Overview and Scrutiny remains a constant in terms of knowledge, experience and local insight; however it could easily be overwhelmed with the demands on its time. Therefore, as resources available to Scrutiny are limited those engaged in the process have to be highly selective in choosing topics and issues to review so that Scrutiny can drive real change in improving services and the life experiences of the borough's residents.

9.2 The framework presented in Appendix A, which was originally presented to and discussed by members at the Aging Well Scrutiny Framework workshop on 30 January 2012 is designed to aid Scrutiny members in deciding and scoping their future work programme. It is based on four principles:

- Issues chosen for Scrutiny should be recognised as being of sufficient importance to the community to warrant expending scarce resources in investigating it.
- There should be a clear understanding by everyone concerned of what is being investigated.
- The investigation should be asking questions that have not been asked before. That is to say the issue has not been replicated elsewhere (even if in a slightly different form). This includes other Overview and Scrutiny committees.
- The outcomes from this investigation will make a real difference to the community

9.3 The framework takes into account Barnet's Ageing Well Strategy, the Centre for Public Scrutiny's work on Health and health scrutiny and good practice guidelines for Overview and Scrutiny.

## **10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10.1 Barnet Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2011 - Available from:

[www.barnet.gov.uk/joint-strategic-needs-assessment](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/joint-strategic-needs-assessment)

**Finance – JH/MC**

**Legal - MB**