

Meeting	Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date	12 February 2013
Subject	Member's Item
Report of Summary	Scrutiny Office This report informs the Committee of a Member's Item and requests instructions from the Committee.

Officer Contributors	John Murphy, Overview and Scrutiny Office
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards Affected	All
Key Decision	No
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in	N/A
Function of Enclosures	Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Appendix A - Health Overview and Scrutiny Framework Effective Scrutiny for Better Outcomes
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1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 The Committee's instructions on the Members' Item are requested.

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 2012/13 Corporate Plan are: –
- Better services with less money
 - Sharing opportunities, sharing responsibilities
 - A successful London suburb
- 3.3 The work of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee supports the Corporate Plan 2012/13 objective of supporting residents to live healthy and independent lives through its role as a "critical Friend" reviewing the provision of health and social care services by the council and health partners as they seek to deliver the Health and Well-being Strategy, promoting prevention and the integrated commissioning of services.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 None in the context of this report.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 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.

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

6.1 None in the context of this report.

7. LEGAL ISSUES

7.1 The Health and Social Care Act 2012, Part 5, Chapter Two makes amendments to the NHS Act 2006. It includes an amendment concerning the power to make regulations on review and scrutiny of health by local authority overview and scrutiny committees. The amendments enable those regulations to authorize the local authority to arrange for an overview and scrutiny committee to discharge its health scrutiny functions. The health scrutiny functions may involve making reports and recommendations to relevant NHS bodies or relevant health service provider, Secretary of State or the regulator.

8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS (Relevant section from the Constitution, Key/Non-Key Decision)

8.1 The scope of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees is contained within Part 2, Article 6 of the Council's Constitution.

8.2 The Terms of Reference of the Scrutiny Committees are included in the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Part 4 of the Council's Constitution). The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee has within its terms of reference responsibility:

- (i) To perform the overview and scrutiny role in relation to health issues which impact upon the residents of the London Borough of Barnet and the functions services and activities of the National Health Service (NHS) and NHS bodies located within the London Borough of Barnet and in other areas.
- (ii) To make reports and recommendations to the Executive and/or other relevant authorities on health issues which affect or may affect the borough and its residents.
- (iii) To invite executive officers and other relevant personnel of the Barnet Primary Care Trust, Barnet GP Commissioning Consortium, Barnet Health and Wellbeing Board and/or other health bodies to attend meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as appropriate.

8.3 Council Constitution, Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, Paragraph 8.1 states that "Any member of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall be entitled to give notice to the Head of Governance that he/she wishes an item relevant to the functions of the Committee to be included on the agenda for the next available meeting of the Committee. On receipt of such a request, the Head of Governance will ensure that the item is included on the next available agenda".

9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

9.1 Cllr Kate Salinger has requested that a Member's Item be brought to the committee in relation to maternity services in the borough. Cllr Salinger has

requested that NHS partners be requested to provide details of caesarean births in the borough. Specifically Cllr Salinger has requested that the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust and Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust provide responses to the following questions:

1. In 2012 how many Caesarean operations were performed in
 - a) Barnet Hospital
 - b) Chase Farm Hospital
 - c) Royal Free Hospital?
2. In 2012 how many of these Caesarean operations were elected by the patient in
 - a) Barnet Hospital
 - b) Chase Farm Hospital
 - c) Royal Free Hospital?
3. In 2012 how many of these Caesarean operations were recommended by medical staff PRIOR to the patients admittance to give birth at
 - a) Barnet Hospital
 - b) Chase Farm Hospital
 - c) Royal free Hospital?
4. How many inductions were performed at
 - a) Barnet Hospital
 - b) Chase Farm Hospital
 - c) Royal Free Hospital?
5. How many of these inductions led to a caesarean operation at
 - a) Barnet Hospital
 - b) Chase Farm Hospital
 - c) Royal Free Hospital?

9.2 In considering the addition of Member's Items to the work programme of the Committee members are requested to consider the Health Scrutiny Framework as set out in appendix A to ensure that issues chosen for scrutiny should be recognised as being of sufficient importance to the community to warrant expending scarce resources in investigating it. Specifically:

- 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

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None.

Cleared by Finance (Officer's initials)	JH/MC
Cleared by Legal (Officer's initials)	