

**Wiltshire Council**

**Health Select Committee**

**5 September 2017**

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## **Overview and Scrutiny (OS) Councillor Representation on the Adult Social Care Transformation Programme Board**

### **Purpose**

1. To note that the Chairman of the Health Select Committee has been invited to sit on the Adult Social Care Transformation Programme Board as an Overview and Scrutiny (OS) councillor representative to provide non-executive councillor engagement and lay challenge (role defined in more detail below).

### **Background**

2. The Council has ambitious transformation programme in place for Adult Social Care, developed following the recent adult social care peer review. As a council, we have a track record of transforming services exemplified by the changes in children's services following an Ofsted inspection. In Adult Social Care the Council has identified a number of focus areas, including market development, managing demand, supporting people to remain independent and delayed transfer of care. The transformation programme will address these issues and there is a critical need to transform the way in which we manage our Adult Social Care services to continue to be able to meet the future demand effectively.
3. It is therefore timely to consider appropriate non-executive councillor engagement with the programme.
4. OS is a statutory function and is the primary avenue through which the council's non-executive members can influence its decisions and policies. In summary, its purpose is to:
  - Hold the Cabinet and partners to public account;
  - Monitor council performance; and
  - Develop and review council policy.
5. OS focuses its work programme on the agreed priorities of the council and partners. The Health Select Committee would expect to have some form of early and ongoing engagement with the ASC Transformation programme as significant change programme within its remit.

**OS undertakes its role in a variety of ways. These are:**

- a) **Committee meetings** (In this case, the Health Select Committee)

**b) Task groups** (OS committees can form small councillor working groups to investigate topics in detail - This approach is not considered appropriate at this early stage of the Adult Social Care Transformation programme).

**c) OS councillor project board representative**

The Executive has invited OS to appoint councillor representatives to a number of council boards, including the Parking review and Highspeed Broadband. These have been considered successful in providing ongoing, resource-efficient, OS engagement with major programmes of work.

6. OS has developed an approach for appointing councillors to sit on council project boards. This includes a criteria defining when such positions are appropriate, the purpose and expectations of the role and how councillors should be supported to undertake it effectively.
7. OS considers a councillor rep to be appropriate when the executive board concerned meets one or more of the following criteria:
  - Aligned to delivering the council's business plan;
  - Transformational in nature with a direct impact on communities or people;
  - Has significant financial implications for the Council;
  - Involves thematic and/or partnership working; and/or
  - Engagement adds value.
8. The template role description for an OS councillor rep on a project board includes:
  - a) To fulfil the "lay challenge" role on the board
  - b) To be non-voting and not bound by decisions of the board in order to maintain transparency
  - c) To take a strategic view and not a locality interest
  - d) Ideally to be a councillor of any task group if also established for the review in order to provide continuity (not applicable in this case)
  - e) Have an input to the reporting back at key milestones in the project to the select committee and/or task group as necessary with appropriate officer support.
9. Normally OS councillor reps are appointed following an open request for expressions of interest from all non-executive members or members of the relevant committee. However, due to the topic and significance of the ASC Transformation Programme it is proposed that the Chairman of the Health Select Committee be invited to take up this role. The Cabinet Member would remain the 'lead witness' in terms of reporting to the Committee with the Chairman of Health Select Committee supplementing this with the OS member perspective (including reporting back to the OS Management Committee, which coordinates the OS function overall). Officers from the Programme Office and the Scrutiny team would support the Chairman of Health Select Committee in undertaking this role e.g. in reporting back to OS committees.

10. This appointment requires formal approval by the Health Select Committee and the OS Management Committee.
11. Although the chair of Health Select Committee, as an OS representative on the Board, will provide ongoing, light-touch engagement, it is likely that written reports will also be needed for Health Select Committee at key milestones in the project. The detailed knowledge gained by the Chairman of Health Select Committee will also be useful in terms of enhancing the Committee's understanding of and confidence in the programme as reported.

## **Proposal**

12. That the Chairman of the Health Select Committee be invited to sit on the programme board as an Overview and Scrutiny (OS) councillor representative to provide ongoing non-executive councillor engagement and lay challenge.

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