

Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

19 July 2007

South West Health Scrutiny Network

Purpose of Report

1. To update members of the development of the South West Scrutiny Network.
2. To inform members of the first event to be held by the Network on 16 November 2007.

Background

3. In October 2006 the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) announced to officers of health scrutiny committees and public health officials in the South West that £10,000 would be made available to run a health scrutiny network on a regional basis.
4. Swindon Borough Council has offered to act as the body accountable to the CfPS for funding.
5. The aims of the Network are to provide a forum for those involved in health scrutiny to discuss all aspects of their work, to meet up and share good practice, to identify areas for joint scrutiny, to meet with the NHS and regional public health colleagues, to share learning events and to be a focus for the ID&eA as part of its Developing Healthy Communities programme.
6. The outcomes would be improved understanding of the national drivers of change in the South West with better linkages between strategic and local change, improved joint working between OSCs and capacity enhancements, better overviews of strategic planning of services.

The First Network Event

7. A steering group made up of health scrutiny officers (including Wiltshire's), public health specialists and representatives from the SHA and the Care Services Improvement Partnership have formed a steering group to organise the first event.
8. It has been agreed the first event will cover the development of LINKs and the implications for health scrutiny in the Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Bill as this is something that will affect all Health OSCs.
9. By November LINKs will have received Royal assent and there will be more detailed information about the contents of the Bill.

10. The date set for the event is 16 November 2007 and Bristol City Council has kindly donated the venue.
11. During the first event elected members will have an opportunity to think about how they would like the Network to operate in the future and to suggest other topics they would like covered.

Conclusions

12. The Health Scrutiny Officer will continue to be involved in the organisation of the first event and will disseminate relevant information when appropriate.

Financial Implications

13. There are no financial implications for the County Council in this report.
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