



# Scrutinising Commissioning

Graham Heaney  
Centre for Public Scrutiny



# Scrutinising Commissioning



- ◆ What is commissioning
- ◆ The commissioning cycle
- ◆ What to do, where to focus



# Commissioning

- ◆ The process of deciding what services to provide and procuring those services for people
- ◆ Not just a technical process for “experts”
- ◆ What is driving the process?
- ◆ Funding – Cost – Quantity - Quality



# Commissioning



- ◆ Practice based commissioning
- ◆ Joint commissioning
- ◆ Commissioning specialised services
- ◆ Commissioning cycle



# Commissioning Cycle



- ◆ Assessing Needs
- ◆ What are the priorities
- ◆ Identifying service providers
- ◆ Procurement and contracts
- ◆ Monitoring and evaluation



# Needs Assessment

- ◆ How are needs identified? Information and data
- ◆ Who is involved in this?
- ◆ Process already in place – Local Area Agreement
- ◆ Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- ◆ Any input from scrutiny?



---

# Identifying Priorities

---

- ◆ Who is setting priorities?
  - Local community (ies)
  - Local Authority
  - Primary Care Trust
  - Service providers
  - Government



# Identifying Providers



- ◆ Do local services have the capacity to deliver?
- ◆ What role for voluntary and private sector?
- ◆ What providers do local people want?
- ◆ What is the impact on the local health economy?





# Procurements and Contracts



- ◆ Is there a level playing field?
- ◆ How is patient and public involvement built in?
- ◆ How are health inequalities built in?
- ◆ Dealing with poor service and quality



# Monitoring and Evaluation

- ◆ To what extent users and public involved?
- ◆ Contribution to meeting needs and targets
- ◆ What happens if service is not good enough?
- ◆ Does it inform commissioning process?
- ◆ Can health overview and scrutiny add to this?



# How do you scrutinise commissioning?



- ◆ Focus on a part of the cycle
- ◆ Focus on service or condition
- ◆ Focus on particular group or area
- ◆ Getting the timing right
- ◆ Working with the LINK - where can you add value?



---

# Scrutinising Commissioning

---

- ◆ Reviewing individual commissioning programmes ?
- ◆ Review results of commissioning assurance process?
- ◆ Questions