

Health Scrutiny Joint Committees

Background

1. In June 2009 the Council was informed that there was likely to be an increasing demand for health scrutiny joint committees with other local authorities (LA), especially relating to the commissioning of specialist services and rare cancers which may be regarded as a substantial variation in service delivery to local residents.
2. The need for a new Joint Committee is usually triggered by the receipt of an Impact Assessment from a PCT or NHS Network etc, which is subsequently felt to be a 'Substantial variation' by more than one LA. Whilst a substantial variation of health services is not defined in Regulations, the key feature is that there is a major change to services experienced by current and future patients. A protocol for the establishment of such committees has been developed by the South West Health Scrutiny Network, in respect of Specialised Commissioning, and it highlights the importance of LAs nominating members in a timely way to avoid unnecessary delay in the commissioning process. Depending on the number of LAs involved, a Joint Committee would be established with between 1 and 3 members (plus substitutes) per LA.
3. In September 2009 the Council agreed a process to avoid potential delays in the appointment of councillors to any proposed joint committee whereby a pool of councillors comprising the existing membership and substitutes of the appropriate Health Select Committee was agreed.
4. The Health Select Committee would determine which councillors were to be appointed to the joint committee, after consultation with political group leaders. The rules of political proportionality would apply to these appointments save where there are less than 3 places to be filled.
5. Any appointments would be reported to Council via the Select Committee's minutes and, if necessary, a review of the allocation of seats to political groups undertaken.

Great Western Ambulance Service (GWAS)

6. The GWAS health scrutiny joint committee was established by the local authorities covered by the GWAS area to review poor performance by the Trust. The former Wiltshire County Council was a founding member with 3 representatives appointed to attend its meetings.
7. In September 2009 (following an initial period of observer status pending formal decision on appointments as part of the new working arrangements of Wiltshire Council) 3 members were appointed to serve for the remainder of the municipal year or until the Joint Committee concluded its review of the Trust.
8. The GWAS health scrutiny joint committee remains in existence and appointments have continued to be made, based on political proportionality.

Appointment of Councillors and Substitutes to the GWAS Health Scrutiny Joint Committee

9. In line with arrangements agreed by Full Council in respect of appointments of members to joint scrutiny committees, the Health Select Committee is required to appoint 3 members to the GWAS Health Scrutiny Joint Committee for the remainder of the municipal year or until the Committee concludes its review of the Trust.
10. Based on the proportionality of the Committee this will require appointments made as follows:

Conservative Group – 2 x members
Liberal Democrat Group – 1 x member
11. The appointment of substitutes will also need to adhere to the same principles, namely 2 members from the Conservative Group and one member from the Liberal Democrat Group.
12. The current membership is as follows:

Cllr Mike Hewitt (Con) - to be replaced by an LD
Cllr Peter Colmer (Con)
Cllr Christine Crisp (Con)

Substitutes:

Cllr Peter Hutton (Con)
Cllr Pip Ridout (Con)
Cllr Ricky Rogers (Lab) – to be replaced by an LD

Recommendation

To appoint councillors and substitute members from the Health Select Committee to serve on the GWAS Health Scrutiny Joint Committee.

**John Quinton,
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