



**Meeting:** Health Scrutiny Board **Date:** 26 June 2013

**Wards Affected:** All wards

**Report Title:** Health Scrutiny Board Work Programme

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## **1. Purpose and Introduction**

1.1 Each year, the Health Scrutiny Board is required to agree a Work Programme. The Programme needs to be robust and realistic but also flexible enough to enable emerging issues of concern to be addressed. This will help to ensure that health scrutiny fulfils its primary aim of “acting as a lever to strengthen the voice of local people, ensuring that their needs and experiences are considered as an integral part of the delivery and development of health services and that services are effective and safe”.

## **2. Proposed Decision**

2.1 That the Health Scrutiny Board consider the framework for the Work Programme at Appendix 1, discuss and then agree its areas of focus for the coming year.

### **2.2 Reason for Decision**

To ensure that the Health Scrutiny Board sets a robust Work Programme for the coming year.

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## **Supporting Information**

### **4. Position**

4.1 The Constitution requires that, early in the Municipal Year, the Overview and Scrutiny Board will co-ordinate the production of a Work Programme for the function as a whole. At its meeting on 19 June 2012 the Overview and Scrutiny Board will note that a Health Scrutiny Work Programme will be agreed at this meeting of the Health Scrutiny Board.

4.2 The framework for the Work Programme for the Health Scrutiny Board is attached as Appendix 1. It has been developed taking account of the issues which have been raised by the Board over the course of the last Municipal Year and through

discussions with the Scrutiny Lead Member for Health. As happened last year, rather than undertaking in-depth reviews, it is suggested that the Health Scrutiny Board will employ similar methods to the Overview and Scrutiny Board such as “calls for evidence”, site visits, consideration of case studies and attendance at health partner events whilst keeping in mind its key lines of enquiry for the year.

- 4.3 Time will also need to be allowed for the consideration of any possible substantial variations in services or referrals from the Healthwatch Torbay. Further, the Health Scrutiny Work Programme will be shared with health scrutiny colleagues in neighbouring authorities to avoid duplication and possibly undertake shared work.

## **5. Possibilities and Options**

- 5.1 The Health Scrutiny Board is free to determine its own Work Programme. However, regard should be given to the resources available to support the Board in its work (including members’ time and commitment).

## **6. Fair Decision Making**

- 6.1 The proposals in this report do not have a major community impact.

## **7. Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012**

- 7.1 The proposals in this report not require any procurement and so the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 does not need to be applied.

## **8. Consultation**

- 8.1 No public consultation has been carried out in formulating this report.

## **9. Risks**

- 9.1 The exact nature and timing of the work within the Work Programme will need to be agreed by members through the scoping process. In order to deliver successful reviews, members will need to ensure that they are clear about what they wish to review (and indeed what they will be excluding from the review). The timings of each review will also be critical to ensure that as little ‘bunching’ as possible occurs.
- 9.2 A critical success factor will be members’ commitment to these reviews –members need to be sure that these issues are matters which can make a difference to the community of Torbay and that they are willing to commit time and energy into identifying consultees and key questions, meeting and discussing issues with other members, officers and consultees, reading and challenging the information presented to them and, finally, drawing conclusions, considering options appraisals and risk assessments, and formulating evidence based recommendations.

- 9.3 If members are not committed to the topics within the proposed Work Programme and to making health scrutiny a worthwhile mechanism to improve the lives of the community of Torbay, then there is a risk that no or few positive outcomes can be shown to have been achieved by the Health Scrutiny Board
- 9.5 Co-ordination with the various work programmes of the Council's Policy Development Groups as well as the Health and Wellbeing Board is necessary to ensure there is not duplication of Overview and Scrutiny's role and workstreams and vice versa.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 Framework for the Health Scrutiny Work Programme

## **Additional Information**

None