

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

	10 March 2010
Date of Meeting:	
Report of:	Cheshire East Borough Solicitor
Subject/Title:	Centre for Public Scrutiny Pilot Project

1.0 Report Summary

1.1 This report concerns the involvement of Cheshire East Council in a pilot project being undertaken by the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) in relation to tackling health inequalities. The report also outlines proposals for governance arrangements.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is requested to –

(a) note progress made to date on the Centre for Public Scrutiny - Tackling Health Inequalities using Scrutiny - Pilot Project;

(b) endorse the initial work and proposed direction of the Project; and

(c) approve the proposal that a Joint Scrutiny Panel be established with Cheshire West and Chester Council comprising 4 Members from each Authority.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 To update the Committee on progress with the pilot project and formally establish governance arrangements.

4.0 Wards Affected

4.1 All

5.0 Local Ward Members

5.1 All

6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change - Health

6.1 Potentially improved knowledge and understanding of health inequalities and improved outcomes.

7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

7.1 None

8.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

8.1 Not known at this stage.

9.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

9.1 None

10.0 Risk Management

10.1 None identified

11.0 Background and Options

11.1 The Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) Health Inequality Scrutiny programme is a two year programme funded by the Improvement and Development Agency's Healthy Communities Team to raise the profile of overview and scrutiny as a tool to promote community well-being and help councils and their partners in addressing health inequalities within their local community. This will be achieved by various methods including:

- Developing a resource kit designed to provide Councils with help, support and advice to encourage them to undertake scrutiny reviews of Health Inequalities;
- Identifying and working with four "Scrutiny Development Areas" who will have a key role in making the kit a comprehensive resource for local councils and partners, testing existing models of scrutiny and developing and defining new ones.

11.2 The CfPS encouraged Councils to submit joint bids to become Scrutiny Development Areas and, as the Committee will be aware, Cheshire East Council and Cheshire West and Chester Council submitted a joint bid, which was one of nine successful bids identified in January 2010. Since then one meeting has been held with officers of both Councils together with Linda Phipps who is the Expert Advisor for the duration of the project.

11.3 At that initial meeting discussions were held regarding key questions that the project is intended to answer together with key outcomes. Key questions were identified as:

- What can partners do to make more people live well for longer?
- How should partners work together to deliver a co-ordinated approach to tackling Health Inequalities?
- How should partners communicate health aspiration and messages to deprived areas?

11.4 The initial work will be to undertake a detailed mapping exercise to try to identify a clear picture of health inequalities and from that identify areas to undertake specific scrutiny work. This may include mini reviews and/or case studies as well as various other work including identifying ways to ensure there is effective partnership working both internally and externally, identifying any barriers to health improvements with suggestions for overcoming these and proposals for implementing the Marmot Review (a Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England post 2010, entitled Fair Society, Healthy Lives – published in February 2010).

11.5 Discussions have been held with Research and Intelligence colleagues who will be able to assist with the mapping work. Relevant teams within the Council and the PCT have been informed of the project and links identified with existing workstreams.

11.6 There is a sum of £5000 available (to be shared by the two Councils) to support the review in terms of public engagement/consultation exercises but other than that the review will be supported through existing resources.

11.7 It is important to now establish formal Member Governance arrangements to guide the work of the project and it is proposed that this be through a Joint Scrutiny Panel with Cheshire West and Chester Council comprising 4 members from each Council.

12.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues

12.1

13.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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