

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of meeting: Wednesday 20 May 2009
Report of: Borough Solicitor
Title: Calendar of Meetings

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To review the programme of meetings for the year.

2.0 Decision Required

- 2.1 That the Committee revise its current programme of meetings, to meet in future normally on an 8 week cycle as described below, so as to enable arrangements to be made for mid point meetings as previously determined, and to accommodate other Health and Adult Social Care scrutiny requirements.

3.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond

- 3.1 None.

4.0 Background and Options

Background

- 4.1 With the exception of August, the Committee is currently due to meet every month this year through to April 2010 inclusive. All of the other Scrutiny Committees are operating on a six meetings per year cycle. In addition, the Committee on 16 December 2008 decided to hold "mid point" meetings of the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Group Spokespersons, in order to review and plan the Health and Adult Social Care business and to assess and take preliminary views on NHS proposals for Substantial Developments and Variations of services. It was intended that as well as Cheshire East Officers, representatives of the PCT and the Hospital Trusts as appropriate should attend the mid point meetings to help with business planning and develop effective working relationships.
- 4.2 Whilst it is recognised that the volume of business required to be dealt with by the Committee will be demanding, Members may feel on reflection that a regular Committee meeting every 4 weeks may not be sustainable. There is a need to retain space to address short notice scrutiny issues and conduct scrutiny through specific reviews and Joint Panels as well as through the full Committee. The dates of meetings for the Mental Health Partnership Trust Joint Scrutiny

Committee with Wirral and Cheshire West and Chester Councils have yet to be fixed for the year and will have to be accommodated. It would also be very difficult to provide for the mid point meetings within such a demanding cycle. There will undoubtedly be a lot of Member Development and familiarisation activity required over the forthcoming year at least to help Members "get to grips" with the very wide external agenda in the NHS in particular.

- 4.3 Accordingly the Committee may wish to consider moving to an 8 week pattern of meetings, similar to the other Scrutiny Committees. If this was acceptable, the current dates for the meetings after this would be retained in July, September, November, January and March. The remaining dates could be kept in the diary and used for the mid point meetings and Member Development activities. Of course, if exceptionally there was formal business which could not await the next meeting, the Committee could still be convened on the previously arranged dates to deal with it. The calendar of meetings for the following year (2010 - 11) could then be agreed in the light of this year's experience.

5.0 Risk Assessment

- 5.1 There are no identifiable risks.

For further information:

Officer: Mike Flynn or Denise French

Tel No: 01270 529643

Email: mike.flynn@cheshireeast.gov.uk; denise.french@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Background Documents:

Documents are available for inspection at: None