

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 14 JUNE 2022

Item 10 - Place Partnership Board

Extract from the Minutes of the Adult and Health Committee meeting on 20 May 2022

5 PLACE PARTNERSHIP BOARD UPDATE

The Committee considered a report which noted the progress on the new governance arrangements for local Health and Care services. The Committee were asked to consider and comment on the proposed joint scrutiny arrangements for Cheshire & Merseyside and approve the amended 'Protocol for the establishment of Joint Health Scrutiny Arrangements in Cheshire and Merseyside'.

The Committee heard that the joint health scrutiny arrangements would collectively take on the statutory responsibility to oversee and scrutinise the operation of the ICS at Cheshire and Merseyside level or any part of it, where more than one authority was affected.

There was extensive debate on how the figures on political balance had been arrived at, and members were advised that the Committee must be politically balanced across the whole region, which resulted in one Labour member from each Council and one Independent from Cheshire East, as this had the highest number of Independent councillors. Some members were unhappy with the political balance arrangements and a question was asked as to whether the Council could challenge the decision on political balance through the Secretary of State. It was agreed that the Director of Governance and Compliance would provide a written response to this question.

Members sought reassurance that Cheshire East would not be disadvantaged by the arrangements, and they were informed that this would not affect the ability of the Council to scrutinise health decisions which affect their area.

Members also questioned where the membership would be drawn from. Some members felt this should be from the existing Scrutiny Committee as they had expertise in this area.

RESOLVED that:

1. The progress to date on the Place Partnership Board be noted.
2. The Adults and Health Committee recommend to Council that the establishment of a Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care System Joint Health Scrutiny Committee be approved.
3. That the amended 'Protocol for the establishment of Joint Health Scrutiny Arrangements in Cheshire and Merseyside' be adopted.

(Councillor J Clowes, Councillor S Gardiner and Councillor A Kolker requested it be minuted that they voted against the recommendations).