

REPORT TO: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date of Meeting: 26th January 2016
Report of: James Morley, Scrutiny Officer
Subject/Title: Memorandum of Understanding between Health & Wellbeing Board, Health & Adult Social Care, and Children & Families Overview and Scrutiny Committees, and Healthwatch Cheshire East

1 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report provides a brief overview of the relationship between Overview and Scrutiny, the Health and Wellbeing Board and Healthwatch together with a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that has been proposed to support the work of the four bodies.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the MoU be taken to the four bodies to be discussed and a final version agreed

3 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The purpose of the MoU is to provide a guidance to the four bodies as to how they should work together, to ensure their activities are complimentary (whilst avoiding duplication), and contribute towards achieving the strategic health and care outcomes of the Borough.
- 3.2 Limited time and resources makes it difficult for each body to achieve the objectives of the Borough individually. Also each body has specific powers and remit that the others should not duplicate unnecessarily.

4 Impact on Health and Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

- 4.1 The MoU may help to develop relationships between the bodies that allow each to focus on particular issues, producing better quality work and enabling the bodies as a whole to achieve more.

5 Background

- 5.1 The Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) has produced a variety of guidance regarding health scrutiny and the relationships between Health and Wellbeing

Boards, Health Scrutiny and Healthwatch. The guidance has been useful in considering ways to improve working, such as developing protocols and having regular dialogue.

- 5.2 HASCOSC has developed good relationships with the individual members of the HWB. However there hasn't been much progress in terms of establishing a cohesive relationship between the Committee and the Board. At the same time, whilst there has been work to develop a relationship between officers of Scrutiny and Healthwatch, there is little relationship between the HASCOSC and HWCE.
- 5.3 Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee is also included because HWB often considers issues in relation to children's health which it has an interest in and needs to be considered alongside Health Scrutiny.
- 5.4 It is important that there is joint working however it is also necessary to avoid over complicating governance arrangements. It is suggested that the purpose of the MoU should be similar to that of the Health Scrutiny Protocol. The Protocol is a guide that should be referred to when needed however collaborative working should rely on good communication and mutual agreement rather than forced by strict procedure.

6 Access to Information

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

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