

Executive Summary and Recommendations

Title of Report: Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee –
Acute Stroke and Major Trauma Services in London

Date: 15th January 2009

Summary of this Report

1. This report proposes that the General Purposes Committee recommends to the full Council that it agrees to re-establish a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) to deal with one further issue namely, formulating a response to recommendations made by the NHS about acute stroke and major trauma services in London. The framework for the proposed consultation builds on the first Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee that dealt with *Healthcare for London: Consulting the Capital*.
2. The Council agreed on the 7th November 2007 that the Council establish a joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the other London Boroughs to respond to the NHS London Consultation on the models of care outlined in 'Healthcare for London: Consulting the Capital.'
3. Councillor Barrie Taylor was the appointed member from Westminster City Council on the first Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Recommendation

That the General Purposes Committee recommends to the full Council that it agrees:

1. To establish a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee ('the joint committee') of London boroughs to respond to the NHS London's consultation on the models of care outlined in 'Healthcare for London: Consultation on Acute Stroke and Major Trauma Services in London' provided the Joint Scrutiny Network (a body of which the Council is a member) so agrees.
2. To authorise the Head of Legal Services to agree the terms of reference of the joint committee, in consultation with the Council's nominated member on the joint committee.
3. To appoint a member to JHOSC as nominated by the Chief Whip and appointed by the Head of Legal Services in accordance with his existing delegated authority.

Reason for Urgency

The City Council's membership of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee needs to be agreed in time for the start of the Acute Stroke and Major Trauma Consultation on the 30th January 2009.



City of Westminster

General Purposes Committee Report

Item No:	
Date:	15 th January 2009
Classification:	For General Release
Title of Report:	Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Healthcare for London
Report of:	Head of Administrative Services
Wards involved:	None
Policy context:	Management of the Council
Financial summary:	No financial implications arising from this report
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3. Background

Duties of Health Scrutiny:

- 3.1 Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 requires a local authority to ensure its overview and scrutiny committee have arrangements in place which include provision to review and scrutinise matters relating to the health service in its area and to make reports and recommendations on such matters. That function is carried out at Westminster by the Health and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.2 The Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committees Health Scrutiny Functions) Regulations 2002 gives the authority the option of establishing a joint overview and scrutiny committee with other local authorities to exercise functions which would otherwise be carried out in relation to health by an existing overview and scrutiny committee.
- 3.3 Westminster has been approached by the strategic health authority for London, known as NHS London, to form a joint committee of all 32 London boroughs. NHS London suggests that a joint committee would be best placed to respond to the consultation currently being carried out by NHS London on the review of acute stroke and major trauma services in London which will be launched on the 30th January and therefore the former JHOSC would need to be re-established.

Healthcare for London Consultation: Acute Stroke and Major Trauma

- 3.4 The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be looking to consider and respond to proposals set out in the Healthcare for London document 'Improving Stroke and Trauma Services in London.'
- 3.5 Consultation will cover a review services for acute stroke care; explicitly the location of hyper-acute services and acute services and coverage in London and a review of services for acute trauma care; explicitly the location and coverage of major trauma such as stab and gunshot wounds to the head, neck or chest and trauma such as fractured hip or ankle services in London.
- 3.6 The major stroke consultation will include a configuration of specific hospital sites to provide equality of access to acute stroke services for adults in London.
- 3.7 The major trauma will cover the establishment of major trauma networks covering the whole of London and major trauma centres will be proposed in specific identified hospitals.
- 3.8 NHS London plans to conduct a London-wide joint consultation on stroke and trauma which will run from the 30th January for 12 weeks. The consultation, although joint, will run as a single consultation with single sets of meetings and consultation materials. The consultation will be directed centrally by NHS London and implemented locally by individual PCTs.

- 3.9 It is considered appropriate to accede to the request of NHS London by once again becoming a member of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. In any event, even if Westminster declines to join such a joint committee, the Secretary of State for Health may require the authority to join such a Committee and it is considered likely that he would do so.
- 3.10 London Boroughs (through the officers' body known as the Joint Scrutiny Network or JSN) recommend that a joint committee with the first meeting taking place on the 4th February 2009 be established. Each relevant authority is required to formally agree to establish such a committee.
- 3.11 The terms of reference of the joint committee have been determined in draft format and will be finalised by the first meeting. They are likely to be confined to responding to the consultation. It is proposed that the Head of Legal Services be authorised to agree the terms of reference in consultation with the City Council's nominated Member.

4. Legal implications

- 4.1 The decision of the General Purposes Committee to establish a joint committee is a non-executive function which must be approved by the full Council. Local Authorities may agree to establish a joint Committee with other Local Authorities to carry out its duties.
- 4.2 Each London borough will be entitled to nominate one member to sit on the joint committee. A nomination from the Chief Whip will be sought and the Member appointed by the Head of Legal Services under his existing delegation.

If you have any queries about this report or wish to inspect one of the background papers please contact Joanna Bevan-Taylor on 020 7641 2877; Fax No. 020 7641 2917; Email jbevantaylor@westminster.gov.uk

Background Papers

'Improving Stroke and Major Trauma Services in London – Programme brief for PCT Boards.'

'Healthcare for London letter to Overview and Scrutiny Committees' dated 7th October 2008

'Update on acute stroke and major trauma services consultation' 12th December 2008

' Report to the General Purposes Committee' 24 October 2007