

Programme of Work

Agenda Item: 7

Purpose

1. This report provides Members the opportunity to update the programme of work for the Committee and to propose items for inclusion.

Information

2. The programme of work allows Members to map out scrutiny activity over the coming year. It is reviewed at every meeting of the Standing Committee.
3. Members are invited to consider the updated programme of work and to suggest other issues that the committee may wish to consider. In including an item the standing committee should seek to ensure that there will be a meaningful outcome from consideration of an item or a benefit to the people of Nottinghamshire. The standing committee should generally avoid agenda items that are for information or noting or where a previous review has been concluded.

Newark Review

4. On 20th September 2011, the Social Care and Health Standing Committee referred the Newark Hospital changes to the Secretary of State for Health for the second time.
5. The referral was based on further information from local leaders across the political spectrum highlighting the ongoing concerns of

patients and the public. Whilst the referral is with the Secretary of State, the NHS body cannot implement the Newark Review in its entirety.

6. At the meeting on 9 January 2012 Members considered correspondence received from the Department of Health since the referral. The Standing Committee agreed unanimously that a further letter be sent on its behalf to the Secretary of State for Health. The letter requested that: **"this matter be advanced as a matter of urgency** so that the issues raised and improvements sought by local leaders on behalf of the people of Newark can be addressed."
7. The Secretary of State for Health has now asked the Independent Reconfiguration Panel to undertake an initial independent review of the issues raised in the referral. The Panel is expected to report to the Secretary of State for Health by 17 February 2012. Copies of correspondence received from the Secretary of State since the last meeting are attached as an appendix to the report.
8. The findings of the independent review are expected to be published alongside the Secretary of State for Health's response to the Standing Committee. No date has been given for the response.
9. The response will require further consideration and will be reported to the Standing Committee at the earliest opportunity. To accommodate consideration of the response in the programme of work it may be necessary to schedule an additional meeting of the Committee. The Standing Committee is invited to support this course of action pending the response of the Secretary of State for Health.

Recommendation:

10. It is recommended that the Social Care and Health Standing Committee

- i. consider any issues raised and agree the updated programme of work
- ii. agree that an additional meeting of the standing committee be scheduled if required.

Councillor Ged Clarke

Chairman of the Social Care and Health Standing Committee

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Background Papers:

Referral to the Secretary of State for Health and associated correspondence as included with the agenda on 9 January 2012

Letter on behalf of the Committee to the Secretary of State for Health – 12 January 2012