



meeting **HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE**

date **27 September 2005** agenda item number

Response of the Cabinet Member for Social Services to the Health Select Committee Study into the MRSA Superbug – Final Report

1. Purpose of report

To give the response of the Cabinet Member for Social Services to this Report of the Health Select Committee.

2 Response of the Cabinet Member

1. I very much welcome the work which was undertaken by the Health Select Committee in its study of MRSA. The study has been extremely thorough and made a series of recommendations which I would fully support. My understanding is that the work of the Committee and its recommendations have also been widely supported in the Health Community.
2. Recommendations 4, 6 and 7 particularly require action from the Social Services Department, with our colleagues in the NHS. The recommendations are relevant to the Department in its role as a provider of care services in care homes and in the community, and also in its role as a commissioner of services from other providers of service.
3. Staff from Social Services have considered the recommendations for both roles, and have been in discussion with colleagues in a range of key agencies who can assist in carrying through the recommendations. This has included Primary Care Trusts, the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) locally, independent sector providers of residential and nursing care, and independent sector providers of home care. They have all agreed to participate in work led by officers in the Department, and a working group is in the process of being set up to carry through these recommendations. The working group will also ensure that their work is co-ordinated other developments in this field happening locally, including that in response to the other recommendation of the Select Committee.
4. I would expect this working group to be able to provide an initial progress report to the Select Committee in 3 months time.

Councillor Dick Anthony
Cabinet Member for Social Services