

3 June 2013**Agenda Item: 8****REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****AREAS OF CONCERN****Purpose of the Report**

1. To introduce possible areas and issues for review.

Information and Advice

2. The Health Scrutiny Committees may undertake pro-active scrutiny reviews of issues or themes of concern. The review might relate to the work of a single NHS body or service provider, or could be thematic in nature and consider an issue or issues that cut across different organisations.
3. Where an issue has been identified for potential review, an initial presentation would be made to allow the committee to determine if the subject is suitable for further scrutiny. If the committee opts to proceed with the review, the officers supporting health scrutiny will prepare under the guidance of the chairman a draft scoping document which describes the nature of the work to be undertaken for subsequent agreement by the committee.
4. Reviews may be undertaken as part of the agenda of committee meetings or via sub-committees or study groups. The guiding principle is one of evidence gathering, and ultimately, reviews produce a report which summarises the evidence gathered and contains recommendations based around the evidence that has been heard.
5. Organisations that are the subject of recommendations are given two months to develop a response, they then attend the committee to explain whether or not they accept the recommendation, and what action they intend to take in relation to it.

Potential Areas of Concern

6. One possible subject for review is '**Never Events**' – these are the preventable mistakes which the Department of Health judges are so serious that they should never happen. Such mistakes include: retained foreign object post operation, misplaced gastric tubes, wrong implant or prosthesis, wrong site surgery and many others.
7. Another possible subject is **misdiagnosis**. In 2010-11, the NHS as a whole is reported to have paid out £98 million to patients whose conditions were misdiagnosed.

8. The final suggested subject is the **Liverpool Care Pathway**. The pathway is widely used and respected and describes the professional practice for use in caring for dying patients in the last hours of life. However, the pathway has also attracted negative media coverage locally and public concern.
9. Members are free to suggest additional areas of concern for possible review.
10. Members are therefore requested to identify which subjects they wish to receive initial presentations on at future meetings of this committee.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That the Health Scrutiny Committee indicates subject(s) for initial presentation of information.

Councillor Kate Foale
Chairman of Health Scrutiny Committee

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Martin Gately – 0115 9772826

Background Papers

Nil

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All