

**ITEM No**

**JOINT CITY AND COUNTY  
HEALTH SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE**

**8 JULY 2008**

**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY – NOTTINGHAM CITY  
COUNCIL**

**ACCESS TO URGENT AND EMERGENCY CARE**

**1 SUMMARY**

This meeting will be attended by representatives of Nottinghamshire County Teaching Primary Care Trust and Nottingham City Primary Care Trust, who will deliver a presentation on accessing the range of urgent and emergency services which they commission.

**2 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION**

It is recommended that Members consider the information provided by the Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) at the meeting and agree whether it would be appropriate for the Committee to undertake any further scrutiny work on this topic.

**3 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 At the Committee's meeting of 13 May, Dr Andrew Dove, Head of Service, Emergency Department, Nottingham University Hospitals, updated the Committee on early plans for an Emergency Village on the Queen's Medical Centre site. During the subsequent discussion Members identified a lack of clarity regarding the range of urgent and emergency services available to the public across the Greater Nottingham area. As commissioners of these services, Nottinghamshire County Teaching Primary Care Trust and Nottingham City Primary Care Trust were invited to send representatives to this meeting to provide clarification.
- 3.2 Urgent and emergency care covers a number of important unscheduled services, from life-saving treatment for people who suffer strokes, heart attacks or other serious medical conditions, to providing care, advice and reassurance to people with a wide range of other problems and concerns. The two PCTs have been invited to provide an explanation of the services available for urgent care, for example NHS Direct, Walk-in Centres, the Emergency Department, GPs, out-of-hours emergency services etc, and the criteria for accessing them.

3.3 Members may wish to focus on the following areas of questioning:

- a) How services are publicised so that patients can make an informed decision about which service to access;
- b) How the patient accesses services;
- c) How fragmentation of care is avoided;
- d) How well services are used, eg numbers of users;
- e) Future plans for these services.

**4 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

None.

**5 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING EXEMPT OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

None

**6 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT**

Report to and minutes of the meeting of the Joint City and County Health Scrutiny Committee held on 13 May 2008.

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