

**REPORT FOR: OVERVIEW AND  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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**Date of Meeting:** 27 June 2017

**Subject:** Review of the Health Visiting Service

**Responsible Officer:** Alex Dewsnap  
Divisional Director, Strategic  
Commissioning

**Scrutiny Lead  
Members:** Councillor Michael Borio  
Councillor Vina Mithani

**Exempt:** No

**Wards affected:** All

**Enclosures:** Appendix - Report from the Health  
Visiting Service Review

## **Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations**

This report accompanies the report from the Health Visiting Service Challenge Panel. The report outlines the review's observations and findings with regard to improving the Health Visiting Service

### **Recommendations:**

Councillors are recommended to:

- a) consider the findings and recommendations of the Health Visiting Service Review
- b) refer the review's recommendations to Cabinet and to the London North West NHS Trust for consideration
- c) acknowledge that the substantive Cabinet response will be available in September.

## **Section 2 – Report**

### **Introductory paragraph**

The Scrutiny Leadership Group (SLG) agreed to undertake a review of 'Health Visiting Service in Harrow in the form of a Challenge Panel. The Challenge Panel took place on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017. The membership of the Panel consisted of nine (5 Conservative and 4 Labour) councillors and was supported by a Policy Officer from the Corporate Policy Team.

The main aims of the review were to:

- Understanding the service on the ground through work-shadowing, meeting parents and meeting London North West service managers.
- Understanding how other boroughs' HV service works.
- Understanding how it fits with LBH Early Years Service
- Understanding the current budget
- Examination of the expenditure involved in provision of the service
- Meeting national representative of e.g. PHE or Institute of Health Visiting to understand the national picture.

The Challenge Panel invited submissions and heard evidence from the Director of Public Health, Council Officers, and from representatives from London North West Trust and Public Health England.

### **Reference to Cabinet**

Subject to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's agreement, the Challenge Panel's report and recommendations will be referred to the Cabinet at its meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> July. Most of the recommendations are directed at the service provider, the London North West NHS Trust, and in order to secure a comprehensive and meaningful response, it will be necessary to consult with the Trust over the summer period. It is therefore planned that the report

outlining a substantive response to the recommendations will be taken to the Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on 14 September 2017.

## **Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

Health Visiting services are funded by the annual public health grant, the funding having transferred from NHS England in October 2016 to fund the contractual services which became the responsibility for local authorities at this time.

Cabinet in December 2016 approved the annual expenditure for Public Health services which included £2.898m for these mandatory services planned for 2017/18. The service will be re-procured during 2017/18 as part of the 0-19 service and will include school nursing services. The recommendations made by the panel will inform the specification for the new service which will be expected to be delivered within the existing budgetary provision set aside for these services.

Whilst there are no specific Medium Term Financial Strategy proposals associated with these services, there is a significant reduction in the Public Health team planned for 2018-19 which may affect the ability to manage this contract in the longer term.

The Public Health grant is currently ring-fenced until March 2019, after which it is expected that the service will be funded by business rates. It is not clear what impact, if any, the changes to the funding will have on the level of available resource but as a statutory service, these costs will need to be funded by the Council.

It should be noted that award of any future contract results in contractual obligations with the provider for services which are funded by external grant and which cannot be guaranteed in the longer term.

## **Legal Implications**

The terms of reference for Overview and Scrutiny Committee include making recommendations to the Cabinet arising from the scrutiny process, which can include scrutiny of matters relating to health.

## **Performance Issues**

There are no specific performance issues associated with this report.

## **Environmental Impact**

There are no specific environmental impacts associated with this report.

## **Risk Management Implications**

There are none specific to this report.

## **Equalities implications**

An EqIA was not carried out specifically for this report as it includes no proposals for service change. Where changes result from the acceptance of these reports recommendations, these will be accompanied by an EqIA.

## Council Priorities

The Council's vision:

### Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow

This review relates to all three priorities of the Harrow Ambition Plan, including:

- Build a Better Harrow
- Be More Business-like and Business Friendly
- Protect the Most Vulnerable and Support Families

## Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Donna Edwards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the* Chief Financial Officer
Date: 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2017		
Name: Sharon Clarke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the* Monitoring Officer
Date: 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2017		

<b>Ward Councillors notified:</b>	<b>NO</b>
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## Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

**Contact:** Mohammed Ilyas, Policy officer. 0208 424 1322

**Background Papers:** None