

Meeting:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Date:	9 January 2007
Subject:	Final Report of the Challenge Panel on School Nursing
Responsible Officer:	Paul Najsarek - Director, People, Performance and Policy
Contact Officer:	Nahreen Matlib – Senior Scrutiny Officer
Portfolio Holder:	People First – Children’s Services
Key Decision:	No
Status:	Part 1

Section 1: Summary

Decision Required

The Sub-Committee is asked to:

1. Note the final report of the challenge panel on school nursing.
2. Endorse the report’s findings and recommendations.
3. Forward the report to Cabinet for note.

Reason for report

At its meeting on 27 June 2006, the Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee agreed to conduct a review on the future of school nursing services in Harrow.

This review was conducted through a challenge panel which was held on 28 November 2006 and gathered evidence from Harrow Council, Harrow Primary Care Trust and North West London Hospitals NHS Trust, with further comments

from the Royal College of Nursing. The final report of the review group is attached.

Benefits

Approval of the report and its recommendations will allow the Sub-Committee to influence the discussions around the future provision of school nursing in the borough. This is particularly pertinent at this time as a new service specification is in development.

Cost of Proposals

The costs associated with this review are contained within existing approved budgets.

Risks

Not applicable.

Implications if recommendations rejected

1. Scrutiny will lessen its impact in its policy development role.
2. Scrutiny will limit the ways in which it influences local decisions, which are particularly pertinent at this time, on an important area of service provision.

Section 2: Report

Brief History

At its meeting on 27 June 2006, the Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee commissioned a review on the future of school nursing services in Harrow.

The public health focus of the school nursing service has received renewed attention in recent years in the light of Government policies to improve health and reduce inequalities in health outcomes. Harrow Primary Care Trust commissions local school nursing services and at present, local school health services are managed and delivered by the North West London Hospitals NHS Trust within the Division of Women and Children's Services. Work is currently underway to redefine the future provision of school nursing services in Harrow and this scrutiny review hopes to inform these local deliberations and decisions.

The scope of the review examined, analysed and made proposals on the future delivery of school nursing services in the borough and in doing so, promoted a better shared understanding between the council and NHS partners of the roles and responsibilities of school nurses and in turn used this to inform the organisations' improvement agendas.

The review was conducted through a challenge panel which was held on 28 November 2006 and gathered evidence from Harrow Council, Harrow Primary Care Trust and North West London Hospitals NHS Trust, with further comments from the Royal College of Nursing.

Consultation

Members of the Review Group, officers directly involved in its work and the Royal College of Nursing have been consulted on the findings and recommendations in the report.

Financial Implications

This report is not seeking any additional financial resources. Review expenses will be met from the agreed scrutiny budget for 2006/07 which is £340,400. Of this, £266,050 is paid in salaries and £74,350 is available for projects and other expenditure. There were no further costs of this review, in addition to scrutiny resources (i.e. officer time and printing).

None of the review's recommendations involve additional expenditure for the Council or the NHS partners.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Equalities Impact

None specific to this report.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Considerations

None specific to this report.

Section 3: Supporting Information/ Background Documents

- Final report of the Challenge Panel on School Nursing
- Appendices