

Meeting:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	25 September 2007
Subject:	Standing Scrutiny Review of NHS Finances – Carers Case Study – interim report
Responsible Officer:	Paul Najsarek, Director People, Performance and Policy
Portfolio Holder:	Adults services
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Interim report – carers case study

## **SECTION 1 – SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This report sets out detail of activity undertaken so far by the Standing Scrutiny Review of NHS Finances. It also provides a report of the carers' case study undertaken as part of that project for the committee's consideration.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the Committee:

1. Note progress made by the review.
2. Approve the interim report on the carers case study.
3. Agree that the report form an appendix to the eventual full report of the Standing Scrutiny Review of NHS Finances.

## **SECTION 2 - REPORT**

### **Brief Background**

The Standing Scrutiny Review of NHS Finances was established in July 2006 to consider the financial performance and consequent strategic direction of the council, Harrow PCT and NW London Hospitals Trust and to investigate the impact of the financial deficits and related recovery plans on the quality of life and well being of Harrow residents.

Since the last interim report made to this committee in March 2007, the Standing Review has met on 19 April, 3 May, 7 June and 14 August.

The Standing Review has also undertaken a case study to evaluate the impact that changes in NHS and local authority budgets are having on carers and the person they are caring for. The attached report outlines the findings of the case study and will form a major plank of the supporting evidence for the final report of the Standing Review.

The meeting held on 19 April focused on preparations for the focus group held with carers to gather evidence for the case study. The meeting of 3 May received updates on the financial position of the hospitals trust and the PCT and examined evidence gathered at the focus group with carers. The meeting of 7 June consisted of a roundtable discussion of outcomes from carers' focus group with partners, and updates on local health finances and continuing care issues. The meeting of 14 August was focused on the National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS Funded Nursing Care.

### Consultation

The report was considered by the Standing Review at its meeting held on 14 August. The Corporate Director of Adults and Housing and the Chief Executives of the Harrow Primary Care Trust and the North West London Hospitals Trust were offered the opportunity to comment on the factual accuracy of the report. Comments received from the Corporate Director and the Chief Executive of the PCT have been reflected in the report.

### Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) criteria

The scope of the Standing Review also includes consideration of the impact of financial difficulties at the interface between health and social care. As such the potential impact of changes to the Fair Access to Care Services criteria has been raised by the review.

The decision made by Cabinet to meet only needs falling into the 'critical' band under the Fair Access to Care Services criteria was called-in and a meeting held on 13 August. The call-in was rejected by the committee. The High Court has now ordered a stay of the decision of 25 July 2007 until 31 October 2007, by which date the Court will have determined the legal challenge to the policy.

The agreement of the criteria does not mean that scrutiny could not consider this issue in future. The Performance and Finance scrutiny sub committee will monitor the effects that the criteria are having on residents and other service users. At the monthly meeting of the Performance and Finance chairman and

vice-chairman, performance information relating directly to social care and associated areas of activity, including information from the Harrow Strategic Partnership, will be considered. If this performance information demonstrates that changes in the criteria mean that service being provided by the council and its partners does not meet the need of the council's clients, the issue can be examined in more detail.

**Issue to be determined**

That the report of the case study be approved and appended to the forthcoming final report of Standing Review.

**Options considered (statutory requirement for Executive-side reports)**

Not applicable.

**Option recommended and reasons for recommendation**

The interim report sets out the evidence gathered by the Standing Review via the carers' case study. As this case study is likely to form the main body of evidence for the overall report of the Standing Review it is proposed that this interim report be appended to the main report when it is completed.

**Resources, costs and risks associated with recommendation**

The overall aim of the Standing Review is to address and monitor the impact of changes in NHS and local authority budgets are having on local people. The case study has sought to safeguard value for money by considering more effective means of supporting carers.

There may be possible financial implications for the authority which would need to be reported on further when the full report is completed.

**Staffing/workforce consideration**

There are none specific to this report.

**Equalities Impact consideration**

The attached report explores equalities issues as they relate to provision and support to carers provided by the authority and by partners.

**Scrutiny performance management issues**

A matrix setting out the recommendations of the case study, which will be used to monitor progress against the recommendations, is attached to the report as Appendix B. Performance monitoring will also be addressed in the overall report of the Standing Review.

**Current KPIs and Likely impact of decision on KPIs**

There are a number of KPIs that may well be impacted upon by the changes in delivery of care to more vulnerable residents. The outputs from this review can help to minimise the impact of the changes.

**Legal and Financial Comments**

There are no legal comments. Financial comments are addressed under 'Resources costs and risks' above.

**Community Safety (s17 Crime & Disorder Act 1998)**

There are none specific to the report.

Recommendations matrix attached as appropriate



**SECTION 3 - STATUTORY OFFICER CLEARANCE**

Name: Barry Evans Date: 30 August 2007	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	On behalf of the Chief Finance Officer
Name: Helen White Date: 3 September 2007	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	On behalf of the Monitoring Officer

**SECTION 4 - CONTACT DETAILS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**Contact:** Heather Smith, Scrutiny Officer, 020 8420 9203,  
[heather.smith@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:heather.smith@harrow.gov.uk)

**Background Papers:**

Reports to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 18 July 2006 and 27 March 2007

**IF APPROPRIATE, does the report include the following considerations?**

1.	Consultation	YES
2.	Corporate Priorities	N/A