

**REPORT FOR: HEALTH AND SOCIAL
CARE SCRUTINY SUB-
COMMITTEE**

Date: 29 June 2011

Subject: Review of Infant Mortality Rates in Harrow

Responsible Officer: Alex Dewsnap, Divisional Director Partnership Development and Performance

Scrutiny Lead Member area: Councillor Ann Gate
Lead Member - Health and Social Care

Councillor Vina Mithani
Lead Member - Health and Social Care

Exempt: No

Enclosures: Report from NHS Harrow

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

The enclosed report provides a briefing on the current trends in the rates of Infant Mortality in Harrow, examines the potential causes of infant death at a population level, reviews the actions taken to address the issue and outlines future priorities for action.

Recommendations:

Councillors are recommended to:

- I. Consider and review the information presented

- II. Note and comment on the proposed course of action put forward by Public Health to address the rates of infant mortality and neonatal mortality
- III. Decide how / whether the committee may wish to address this item further

Section 2 – Report

Background

Earlier in the year the Adult Health Social Care lead members were alerted of the infant and neonatal mortality rates in the borough which were exceeding normal rates. In view of this, lead members felt it was necessary for the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee to consider the issue formally.

The enclosed report from Public Health seeks to address the causes of the increased rates and details actions to try and reduce the infant mortality rates.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Performance Issues

There are no specific performance issues associated with this report.

Environmental Impact

There are no specific environmental implications associated with this report.

Risk Management Implications

There are no specific risk management implications associated with this report.

Corporate Priorities

The council has a priority to 'improve the support for vulnerable people' and 'build stronger communities', the content of this report is relevant to both these priorities and the need to safeguard the interests of residents.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Not required for this report.

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Fola Irikefe, Scrutiny Officer, 0208 420 9389

Background Papers: None