

AGENDA ITEM

**REPORT TO HEALTH
SELECT COMMITTEE**

14 DECEMBER 2009

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF
LAW AND DEMOCRACY**

**CENTRE FOR PUBLIC SCRUTINY EXPERT ADVISORY TEAM SUPPORT AND HEALTH
INEQUALITY PROGRAMME**

SUMMARY

The report informs the Committee of two support programmes from the Centre for Public Scrutiny and seeks approval to progress the bids.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee support the bids being progressed and comment on the suggested content.

BACKGROUND

Expert Advisory Team Support (10 Days)

1. The Select Committee has in the past taken advantage of the free support days provided by the Centre for Public Centre to deliver Member training on Health Scrutiny. The current programme of support from the Centre comprises 10 free days to Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSCs) in each Strategic Health Authority area. Placements will support OSCs working together on common issues across whole regions or sub regions.

2. Health Scrutiny Officers have placed a holding bid for the support which has been approved, in principle, by the Centre subject to the detail of the support programme being agreed in detail.

3. The Chair of the Select Committee, Councillor Ann Cains, will be attending a meeting with other Health OSC Chairs and support officers on Wednesday 9 December to discuss the detail of the proposals. Discussions with colleagues in the region indicate that there is support for using the allocated time to developing regional health scrutiny structures.

4. There will be a verbal update on the outcome of the Chairs' meeting.

Health Inequality Scrutiny Programme

5. In addition to the above programme, the Centre are also inviting bids under a new Health Inequality Scrutiny Programme to raise the profile of overview and scrutiny as a tool to promote community well being and help Councils and their partners in addressing health inequalities within their local community. Whilst Councils are able to make individual applications, the Centre has made it clear that they would prefer bids from O&S

partnerships. The Centre will be selecting four projects in total and, if possible, one from each geographical region.

6. There have been informal discussions at North East scrutiny network meetings and a proposal has been put forward to submit a bid to undertake a piece of regional scrutiny work on the Health Needs of Veterans. The review would examine the physical, mental and broader health needs of ex-servicemen and women, their families and communities, how they are being assessed and met, and how far ex-service personnel and their families are aware of the support available to them. If successful, the project would provide an excellent opportunity to undertake a piece of regional health scrutiny and raise the profile of scrutiny in the region.

7. The bid will also be discussed at the meeting of OSC Chairs on Wednesday 9 December and a further update will be provided at the Select Committee meeting.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8. Involvement in regional health scrutiny work will involve some Member and officer time.

RISK ASSESSMENT

9. The proposed changes are classed as low risk.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

10. Service Delivery (Enhance Local Democracy)
Healthier Communities and Adults: Reduce Health Inequalities

Director of Law and Democracy

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<u>Background Papers:</u>	Publicity material from CfPS
<u>Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:</u>	Not Ward Specific
<u>Property Implications:</u>	None