

28 November 2011

## Local HealthWatch Consultation

### Summary

The Committee are requested to consider the information in relation to the Local HealthWatch consultation.

### Detail

1. Members are aware that as part of the NHS reform process, Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) are being replaced by Local HealthWatch.
2. Local HealthWatch will be commissioned by each relevant local authority, and will provide advice and information to residents, influence the shape of local health and social care services, and provide complaints and advocacy services in due course.
3. Representatives of Local HealthWatch will have a statutory right to be part of the membership of the local Health and Wellbeing Board. Each Local HealthWatch will be independent but will be linked to a national body, HealthWatch England, which itself will be part of the Care Quality Commission.
4. As part of the commissioning process, the Council is currently undertaking a consultation in order to gain views on how HealthWatch should operate in Stockton Borough. This consultation will end on 17 January 2012.
5. Attached is a briefing note outlining the consultation process.

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