

Report to: Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Report from: Stewart Agland, Local Democracy Manager
Report by: Katie Benton, Scrutiny Support Officer

Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel – Co-option of Additional members

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To advise the Panel on the updated guidance relating to co-option of additional members onto the Portsmouth Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel.

2. Recommendations

That the co-option of a representative from each of authorities and bodies listed in Paragraph 3.2 of the report, to serve as standing members, be approved.

3 Background

- 3.1 In 2003 a report accompanying the terms of reference was approved by the Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel (HOSP), which related to member composition of the Panel. In paragraph 6.4 of that report, it was suggested that from time to time co-opted to the Panel would be representatives from each of the other immediately surrounding district councils (when discussing issues that significantly affect their area) and a representative from the County Council where there is likely to be a significant impact upon their responsibilities. The report also explained that representatives from other interested bodies and stakeholders could be co-opted to the Panel as and when matters affecting their interests were being considered.

- 3.2 Since this initial report, the membership of the Panel has naturally evolved, and six co-optees now have regular positions at the meetings.

4. Updated co-option of addition members – Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel

- 4.1 The following representative are invited to serve on the Portsmouth HOSP:

- East Hants District Council
- Fareham Borough Council
- Gosport Borough Council
- Havant Borough Council
- Winchester City Council
- Hampshire Council Council

- 4.2 In accepting the arrangement that allows the representatives mentioned in paragraph 4.1 to attend all Panel meetings, so that they can be kept informed on issues that are being considered, the Panel must remember that the co-opted members' main contributions should be in respect of those issues having a significant affect upon their area.
- 4.3 There is provision to allow for the co-option of other people, either as standing members or for the duration of a particular scrutiny review. The Panel may wish to consider whether, for a particular exercise, it wishes to co-opt someone with particular expertise, such as a medical or health professional. The Regulations preclude the co-option of members who work for are on the board of a NHS body that is the subject of a scrutiny review, where there may be a conflict of interest. If a person is co-opted to become a member of the Panel this would preclude them from giving evidence. An alternative would be to invite someone with such expertise to act as an adviser to the Panel.
- 4.4 Since the introduction of Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) in March 2008, it is expected that the HOSP may wish for a representative of the LINK to become co-opted onto the Panel, with vice versa reciprocations on the LINK. This is to be discussed.
- 4.5 Whilst co-opted members can play an important role in the Panel's scrutiny work the current regulations do not extend to them voting rights. In practice, however, much of the Panel's work will focus upon examining particular issues and for members to work together to prepare a report, conclusions and recommendations. Only occasionally is it envisaged that a formal vote may be required.

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Local Democracy Manager