

Healthier Communities Select Committee			
Title	Health Scrutiny Protocol (Revised)	Item No	7
Contributors	Overview and Scrutiny Manager		
Class	Part 1	Date	4 September 2013

1. Purpose of paper

- 1.1 To invite members to consider and agree a revised Health and Social Care Scrutiny Protocol in light of the introduction of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- note the revisions made to the Health Scrutiny Protocol in light of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
- agree the adoption of the revised Health and Social Care Scrutiny Protocol.

3. Health and Social Care Act (2012)

- 3.1 The Health and Social Care Act 2012 (the Act) has redefined the roles of, and relationships between, different sections of the health infrastructure. At a local level this includes the introduction of the Health and Wellbeing Board and changes to the local organisations for commissioning services, changes in public health and changes to structures for public involvement and engagement, and advice and advocacy.
- 3.2 The changes brought about by the Act result in the abolition of a number of organisations, the creation of a number of new organisations and bodies and a change of responsibilities for some existing organisations. These changes to organisations and responsibilities have a direct impact on a number of organisations in Lewisham.

4. Health and Social Care Scrutiny Protocol

- 4.1 In 2008, the Healthier Communities Select Committee (HCSC) developed and agreed a protocol with local commissioners and providers as to how the various bodies would interact with the Committee as it exercised its statutory duties. The protocol included specific agreement about regular and routine interaction, how potential services variations would be dealt with and how interaction with the Lewisham Involvement Network (LINK) would also be maintained, in part through the attendance of two LINK members at every HCSC meeting.
- 4.2 The protocol has led to closer working relationships with local provider trusts and commissioners over the last 4 years and much earlier engagement with proposed service developments, as well as collective agreement on an agreed template for assessing whether a proposed variation might be considered substantial by the Committee. Regular attendance at the Committee meetings and routine engagement with the Chair has benefitted both the Committee and the local organisations by the

effective communication it supports, enabling interaction to be targeted and appropriate.

- 4.3 With the changes brought in by the Health and Social Care Act 2012 being implemented from April 2013, it was recommended that the Committee's Health and Social Care Scrutiny Protocol be updated in light of these changes to ensure ongoing effective relationships with local commissioners and providers and Lewisham Healthwatch.
- 4.4 At the Committee's 16 April 2013 meeting, it was agreed that the Protocol be revised, in discussion and agreement with the appropriate local organisations.
- 4.5 A draft revised Health and Social Care Scrutiny Protocol is attached at Appendix A.

5. Further implications

- 5.1 There are no legal, financial, equalities or crime & disorder implications resulting from the implementation of the recommendation in this report.