

Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

Terms of Reference

Description

The Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (the Committee) is a politically balanced Non-Executive Committee of Council. It is established to discharge functions conferred by the Localism Act 2011 in relation to matters relating to adult social care and health; and the NHS Act 2006, as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Board and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013. The Committee is accountable to Council and will report annually to Council on its activities during the previous year.

The Committee will offer constructive review, feedback and challenge to the Council's Executive and other relevant local decision makers on their decisions, actions, policy, strategy and performance.

Purpose

The purpose of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee is to;

- (a) hold local decision-makers, including the Council's Executive for matters relating to adult social care and public health and commissioners and providers of local health services, to account for their decisions, actions, performance and management of risk
- (b) review existing policies and strategies of the Council and other local decision-makers where they impact on adult social care and/ or the health of Nottingham citizens
- (c) contribute to the development of new policies and strategies of the Council and other local decision makers where they impact on adult social care and/ or the health of Nottingham citizens
- (d) explore any matters relating to adult social care and/ or health affecting Nottingham and/or its citizens
- (e) make reports and recommendations to relevant local agencies with respect to the delivery of their functions, including the Council and its Executive and commissioners and providers of local health services
- (f) exercise the Council's statutory role in scrutinising health services for Nottingham City, in accordance with the NHS Act 2006, as amended and associated regulations and guidance
- (g) be part of the accountability of the whole health system and engage with commissioners and providers of health services and other relevant partners, such as the Care Quality Commission and Healthwatch.
- (h) review decisions made but not yet implemented by the Council's Executive in accordance with the Call-In Procedure.

Objectives

The Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee will:

- (a) develop and manage its work programme to ensure all statutory and other roles and responsibilities are fulfilled in relation to matters relating to adult social care and health to the required standard and which covers review and development of key issues, policies and strategies relevant to Nottingham and its residents,

and which adds value through the examination of those issues of local importance and concern, in accordance with the scope and approach set out in Article 11 – Overview and Scrutiny,

- (b) to work with the other scrutiny committees to support effective delivery of a co-ordinated overview and scrutiny work programme.
- (c) monitor the effectiveness of its work programme and the impact of outcomes from overview and scrutiny activity
- (d) regularly review decisions, actions and performance of the Council’s Executive and other relevant local decision makers, including the commissioners and providers of NHS and public health funded services and the Council’s group of companies
- (e) consider any relevant matter referred to it by any of its members and consider any relevant local government matter referred to it by any Nottingham City Councillor.
- (f) engage with and respond to formal and informal consultations from commissioners and providers of local health services
- (g) hold the Health and Wellbeing Board to account for its work to improve the health and wellbeing of the population of Nottingham City and to reduce health inequalities
- (h) respond to referrals from, and make referrals to, Healthwatch Nottingham and Nottinghamshire as appropriate

The Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee has no decision making powers but has power to:

- (a) review any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services in the area
- (b) require members of the Council’s Executive, and representatives of commissioners and providers of NHS and public health funded services, to: provide information to the Committee, to attend meetings and answer questions posed by the Committee
- (c) invite other persons to attend meetings of the Committee to provide information and/ or answer questions
- (d) make recommendations and provide reports to relevant decision makers, including the Council’s Executive and commissioners of NHS and public health funded services, on matters within their remits. The Council’s Executive and commissioners of NHS and public health funded services have a duty to respond in writing to such recommendations
- (e) be consulted by commissioners of NHS and public health funded services when there are proposals for substantial developments or variations to services, and to make comment on those proposals. In certain circumstances, the Committee has the power to refer decisions about substantial developments or variations in health services to the Secretary of State.

Further detail on the rules and procedures relating to Overview and Scrutiny, including the Call-In Procedure, can be found in Article 11 – Overview and Scrutiny.

Membership and Chairing

The Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee has 8 members.

Members of the Executive and members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are excluded from membership of the Committee.

Executive Assistants responsible for assisting on a Portfolio within the remit of this Committee are excluded from membership of this Committee.

The Chair of the Committee will be appointed by Full Council at its Annual General Meeting. The Chair cannot be a chair of the Board of a company in the Council's Group of companies that relates to matters within the Committee's remit.

The Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee may choose to appoint co-opted members to the Committee. Voting arrangements for co-optees will be in accordance with the scheme of voting rights for co-opted member of overview and scrutiny committees set out in Article 11 – Overview and Scrutiny.

A representative of Healthwatch Nottingham and Nottinghamshire is invited to attend formal meetings of the Committee to provide evidence and insight on matters under the Committee's consideration.

Substitutes

Substitute members are permitted for this Committee.

Quorum

The standard quorum for Council Committees applies to this Committee.

Frequency of Meetings

The Committee usually meets once a month, with the exception of August.

Duration

There is no limit on the lifespan of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee.