

**SUNDERLAND SHADOW  
HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

**22 March 2013**

**PUBLIC HEALTH, WELLNESS & CULTURE SCRUTINY PANEL  
POLICY REVIEW – ROLES, RELATIONSHIPS AND ADDING VALUE**

**Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements**

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This report describes a proposal to carry out a review which will consider the roles and relationships of health bodies within the new structures.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 During 2012 the Scrutiny Committee commissioned the Public Health, Wellness and Culture Scrutiny Panel to carry out a review of the role of the local authority in health issues, primarily the transfer of public health into the local authority.
- 2.2 The evidence gathering for that review highlighted that the Department of Health's public health strategy emphasises that the shift to local authorities should increase accountability. This should incorporate existing governance structures, including the work of overview and scrutiny and also embrace new roles and relationships, particularly through the coordinating role of the health and wellbeing board.
- 2.3 One of the conclusions of that review was that a partnership protocol would help to provide clarity of roles and relationships and would assist new working arrangements.
- 2.4 The Scrutiny Committee endorsed a recommendation to Cabinet that a protocol be developed.

**3. Focus of review**

- 3.1 The objectives of the review are:
- (a) To understand the independent, but complementary, roles and responsibilities of local authority health scrutiny, local Healthwatch, health and wellbeing board, clinical commissioning group and NHS Commissioning Board.
  - (b) To produce a partnership protocol in support of the new structure being effective, accountable, transparent and inclusive.

- 3.2 Key stakeholders include the Health and Wellbeing Board, Adult Partnership Board, Children's Trust, Clinical Commissioning Group, HealthWatch, NHS Partners, National Commissioning Board and the Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.3 The protocol could include information sharing, communication, engagement reporting mechanisms and organisational liaison.
- 3.4 The Centre for Public Scrutiny is encouraging local authorities to establish similar partnership agreements and a number of regional events are being held for scrutiny members to use their experience of policy development to carry out the relevant evidence gathering to contribute to the production of a protocol.

#### **4. Delivering the Review**

- 4.1 Scrutiny members will consider national policy context - structures, roles and responsibilities, Health Scrutiny Regulations and Guidance and governance arrangements and terms of reference for the various bodies.

#### **5. Recommendations**

- 5.1 Members of the Board are invited to give their views on
  - the proposal to develop a partnership protocol and
  - to advise on how they may wish to be involved in the review.