

Report to Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board

Joint Scrutiny Committee – Northern Care Alliance

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Barbara Brownridge – Cabinet Member for health and Social Care

Officer Contact: Shelley Kipling – Assistant Chief Executive and Statutory Scrutiny Officer

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7th March 2024

Reason for Decision

The purpose of this report is to present proposed Terms of Reference and Working principals for the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) for the Northern Care Alliance and to seek the Scrutiny Board's support for the establishment of such a body and accordingly to recommend its establishment to Council.

Executive Summary

The purpose of a JHOSC will be to scrutinise services provided by the Northern Care Alliance relating to the health of the population in Bury, Oldham, Rochdale and Salford and contribute to the development of policy to improve health and reduce health inequalities in respect of services provided by the hospitals.

The Committee would be made up of member representatives from Bury, Oldham, Rochdale and Salford Councils.

Recommendations

1. That the Terms of Reference, attached at Appendix 1 be approved, subject to consideration of proposed amendments submitted by Bury MBC)
2. That the Council be recommended to authorise the establishment of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Northern Care Alliance.

Joint Scrutiny Committee – Northern Care Alliance

1 Background

- 1.1 The Committee is requested to consider supporting the establishment of a Joint Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the performance of the Northern Care Alliance, which provides services across the footprint of Bury, Oldham, Rochdale and Salford Councils.
- 1.2 If established it is proposed that the JHOSC will have delegated powers, on behalf of the four local authorities, to undertake all the necessary functions of health scrutiny in accordance with part 4, Health Scrutiny by Local Authorities, of the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013, relating to reviewing and scrutinising health service matters provided by Northern Care Alliance.
- 1.3 A similar arrangement was in place in respect of the NHS Pennine Acute Hospitals Trust but that Joint Committee (comprising Bury, Oldham and Rochdale Councils) was ended during 2021/22 following the disbandment of the Pennine Acute Trust.
- 1.4 Bury MBC's Health Scrutiny Committee considered this matter at their most recent meeting on 24th January 2024 and they made the following observations:
 - a. Bury Health Scrutiny Committee wished the TOR to reflect that at least one Councillor from each of the four authorities must be present to make a decision as opposed to the current quorum of three of the appointed members as this means 3 Councillors from one authority can make decisions which impact all four authorities in the current TOR.
 - b. To clarify if the first meeting of the JHOSC will agree to waive political proportionality.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Board is asked to consider the establishment of a Joint Scrutiny Committee, to enable that appropriate levels of scrutiny, of the activities and performance of Northern Care Alliance is carried out.

3 Options/Alternatives

- 3.1 Option 1 is to support the establishment of a Joint Scrutiny Committee

Option 2 is to not to support the establishment of a Joint Scrutiny Committee

4 **Preferred Option**

4.1 Option 1

5 **Consultation**

5.1 the Health Scrutiny Committees (or equivalent bodies) of Bury, Oldham, Rochdale and Salford Councils are being asked for their views on this proposal.

6 **Financial Implications**

6.1 None

7 **Legal Implications**

7.1 None

8. **Co-operative Implications**

8.1 None

9 **Human Resource Implications**

9.1 None

10 **Risk Assessments**

10.1 N/A

11 **IT Implications**

11.1 N/A

12 **Property Implications**

12.1 N/A

13 **Procurement Implications**

13.1 N/A

14 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

14.1 None

15 **Community cohesion, including crime and disorder implications in accordance with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

15.1 None

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- 16 **Oldham Equality Impact Assessment, including implications for Children and Young People**
 - 16.1 N/A
 - 17 **Key Decision**
 - 17.1 No
 - 18 **Key Decision Reference**
 - 18.1 N/A
 - 19 **Background Papers**
 - 19.1 None
 - 20 **Appendices**
 - 20.1 Appendix 1 – Proposed Terms of Reference and Working principals for the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) for the Northern Care Alliance