

Item No. 10.	Classification: Open	Date: 22 July 2014	Meeting Name: Cabinet
Report title:		Access to Health Services in Southwark (Health, Adult Social Care, Communities & Citizenship Scrutiny Sub-Committee)	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Overview & Scrutiny Committee	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the cabinet notes the recommendations of the review of access to health services in Southwark and that the relevant cabinet member bring back a report to cabinet within eight weeks, in order to respond to the overview and scrutiny committee.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Attached is the final report arising from the scrutiny review of access to health services in Southwark.
3. Access to health services throughout Southwark is varied, with differing issues presenting at each access point. Each of these issues is interlinked, and an under-performance in one sector will necessarily impact on other health services. With increased, sustained pressure on the health service it is important, now more than ever, to have services which are truly delivering for our residents. The Health, Adult Social Care, Communities & Citizenship Scrutiny Sub-Committee therefore decided to consider the range of health services provided in the borough, and the ways in which our residents interact with these. In doing so, the sub-committee found a number of key issues which are leading to strains being placed on other health services
4. The scrutiny review focused on four areas of concern:
 - Access to out of hours care – specifically the 111 Service and rollout in Southwark
 - Understanding the reasons for increased use of A&Es over winter and how this could be reduced
 - Access to individual GP surgeries and walk-in centres
 - The implications of the Trust Special Administrator (TSA) and King's Health Partners (KHP) merger on access to emergency and urgent care
5. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered the sub-committee's report at its meeting on 10 March 2014. The committee welcomed the report and the valuable work of the sub-committee.

HEALTH, ADULT SOCIAL CARE, COMMUNITIES & CITIZENSHIP SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

6. The sub-committee's recommendations for consideration by cabinet are set out below. The sub-committee's report, which also includes recommendations to the Health & Wellbeing Board, Clinical Commissioning Group and Hospital Trusts, is attached as an appendix.

Accident & Emergency Departments

7. We further recommend that Public Health supports the CCG in their (Not Always A&E) campaign, ensuring that public awareness of the alternative healthcare services increases.
8. We recommend that the Clinical Commissioning Group continues its programmes working specifically with older people and that Public Health identifies the further support that we, as an authority, can be giving them.
9. This sub-committee commends the work of the CCG, jointly with the local authority and community services to help people stay well at home for longer. We would like to see further evidence of the work being done on the frail elderly pathway to ensure that we are offering our residents the best care services.
10. This sub-committee welcomes the work being taken forward by the Adult Social Care department. We recommend an update report on the services provided for older people with high needs to be made to the next sub-committee.
11. We recommend that further work is done by the Adult Social Care team within the council, looking specifically at the ways in which we can identify and support older people to prevent admissions to A&E.
12. We remain concerned however that there seems to be a lack of co-ordinated action by the health community to tackle the issue of increased acuity of patients. The sub-committee recommends that the Health & Wellbeing Board places this as a priority for 2014/15 and that Public Health carries out a piece of research into the reasons behind the increased acuity in Southwark.

Access to GP Surgeries

13. We recommend that the Housing Options & Assessment and the Disabled Travel Team should carry out a review looking at the ways in which to influence customer signposting to ensure that residents are aware of the services that the council provides in terms of assessing residents for blue badges and receipt of benefits.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Overview & Scrutiny Committee Agenda 10 March 2014	Scrutiny Team 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Peter Roberts 020 7525 4350
Link: Overview & Scrutiny Committee Agenda 10 March 2014		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix A	Report of the Health, Adult Social Care, Communities & Citizenship Scrutiny Sub-Committee

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Shelley Burke, Head of Overview & Scrutiny	
Report Author	Peter Roberts, Scrutiny Project Manager	
Version	Final	
Dated	4 June 2014	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Director of Legal Services	N/a	N/a
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	N/a	N/a
Chief Officers	N/a	N/a
Cabinet Member	N/a	N/a
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	4 June 2014	