

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 14 January 2003	Meeting Name: Executive
Report Title:	Reference: Final Report of the Health & Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee "Access to Primary Care"		
Ward(s) or Groups Affected:	All		
From:	Overview & Scrutiny Committee		

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Executive receive the Final report of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee on "Access to Primary Care" (attached at Appendix A), and the comments of Overview & Scrutiny Committee, and refers the report to Southwark Primary Care Trust for consideration.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The Health and Social Care Sub-Committee agreed to undertake an initial inquiry into access to primary care (with a focus on access to G.P. services) at its inaugural meeting in July 2002. This was undertaken over three meetings of the Sub-Committee and the final report agreed on 20 November 2002. Details of the evidence taken during the inquiry are contained in the Sub-Committee's report, attached at Appendix A.
3. On 9 December 2002 the Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered the Sub-Committee's final report. Members heard from the Executive Member for Health & Social Care, the Medical Director of Southwark Primary Care Trust and the Vice-Chair of the Health & Social Care Sub-Committee. OSC endorsed the report and agreed to refer it to the Executive and the Primary Care Trust with the following additional agreed comments, i.e.
 - (a) *That the Primary Care Trust be asked to address the matter of access to primary care for working people;*
 - (b) *That the Executive be asked to ensure that this report is publicised, and the Council's Press Office be asked to assist.*
 - (c) *That the Primary Care Trust be asked to consider as a matter of priority access to primary care by black and minority ethnic people, people with disabilities, refugees and asylum seekers and homeless people.*
 - (d) *That the Primary Care Trust be asked to take steps to address provision of exit interviews for general practitioners, in line with the recent Audit Commission comments.*
4. The final report of the Health & Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee on "Access to Primary Care" stands referred to the Executive.

ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. The final report contains a number of recommendations, summarised in paragraph 2.4 of the attached report.
6. The majority of the recommendations are directed at Southwark Primary Care Trust (P.C.T.), although some recommendations are also directed at the Council.
7. Members are asked to bear in mind that there is no specified timescale within which the Primary Care Trust is required to respond to the scrutiny report. However, the guidance that will accompany the health scrutiny regulations is expected to indicate that local authorities should expect to receive responses to scrutiny reports within eight weeks.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8. There are no additional legal implications raised by this report.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

9. There are no specific resource implications raised by this report.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

10. There are no additional equalities implications raised by this report.

CONSULTATION

11. Details of consultation are contained in the attached report.

Audit Trail

Lead Officer	Shelley Burke, Constitutional Support Unit Team Leader (Scrutiny)
Report Author	Lucas Lundgren, Constitutional Support Officer
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Dated	6 th January 2003

CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER

Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Borough Solicitor & Secretary	No	No
Chief Finance Officer	No	No
Executive Member	No	No

<u>Background Papers</u>	<u>Held At</u>	<u>Contact</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background papers are highlighted in the scrutiny report attached at Appendix A. • Health and Social Care Act 2001 • Local Authority Health Scrutiny Draft Regulations 	Corporate Strategy Unit, Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB	Eamon Lally Corporate Strategy Tel: 0207 525 7179
Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Agendas and Minutes	Constitutional Support Unit Rm 3.16, Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB	Lucas Lundgren Constitutional Support Officer Tel: 0207 525 7224
Executive: Agendas and Minutes	Constitutional Support Unit Rm 3.16, Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB	Everton Roberts Constitutional Support Officer Tel: 0207 525 7221