

**Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-committee
29th April 2003**

Developing a work programme for 2003/04

The aim of this meeting is to begin the discussion of the future work programme of the Sub-committee.

Presentations will be provided on key issues by:

- PCT
- The Hospital Trusts
- The Council's Social Services Department

Following this meeting it is proposed that a draft work programme be prepared for consideration and approval at the Sub-committee's next meeting which is provisionally planned for 17 June.

The Sub-committee's work to April 2003

At its meeting in July the Health and Social Care Sub-committee set out its work programme for the period to the end of the Municipal year April 2003.

At that time the Sub-committee agreed to focus on three main issues:

- Access to primary care;
- Modernising day care; and
- Services to, and access to services by, children from black and other minority groups.

The Sub-committee produced two substantive reports one on Primary Care and the other on Modernising Day Care.

In addition the Sub-committee held a meeting with the Executive Member for Health and Social Care to discuss performance issues and issues of current and future policy.

The Sub-committee has not yet had an opportunity to undertake its planned review of services to children from black and minority ethnic groups and it might be appropriate to begin this review early in the new municipal year.

Planning the work programme for 2003/04

The remit of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-committee is broad and includes:

- Public health
- Primary and secondary care delivered via a range of health bodies; and
- Community care and children's services.

In considering the work programme for the coming year it is worth remembering that the local health bodies have a duty to consult with local scrutiny committees on substantial variations and developments in service delivery. In establishing its work programme the Sub-committee might want to build in some flexibility in order to have the capacity to respond to any such consultation processes. However, in practice it is expected that scrutiny will have an opportunity to become involved in policy developments in the health sector at an early stage and this should enable the Sub-committee to take these issues into account as part of the work planning process.

The Sub-committee needs to consider how it can support most effectively health and social care partners in delivering:

- better outcomes for service users; and
- real improvements in overall health and health inequalities in the borough.

The sub-committee will need to take into account:

- The overall health picture in the borough including health inequalities
- Key public health issues such as sexual health and teenage pregnancies
- Any planned re-configurations of health services that might impact significantly on service users in the borough
- Issues of services to key groups such as older people and children

In considering its work programme the Sub-committee will also need to consider performance issues and how best to link its activities to other policy development and decision making processes.