

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SELECT (OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE

TASK AND FINISH WORKING GROUP ON PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES:

Public Health Nursing, Stop Smoking, Sexual Health, Substance Misuse

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Role and Purpose of the Task and Finish Working Group

The Task and Finish Working Group is a working group of the Health and Adult Social Care Select (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee (HASC) and is appointed in accordance with the Constitution of Hampshire County Council.

The Task and Finish Group's purpose is to contribute to the consideration of proposals to be made to the following Public Health services:

- Substance Misuse
- Stop Smoking
- Sexual Health
- Public Health Nursing

2. Context

Against the backdrop of reducing County Council budgets and increasing service demand, Public Health needs to re-focus its budgets to take account of its growing portfolio of responsibilities, over and above the provision of mandated services and the need to support the delivery of wellbeing objectives across the authority. Where possible, public health services have already reduced costs by improving efficiency and early intervention and prevention but continues to face a funding shortfall of £6.8million.

The team has worked with organisations which deliver services on its behalf to identify potential new ways of working. This includes making the most of the opportunities that are presented by new technologies and the internet.

A number of the service adaptations that were successfully introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic could continue in a blended model of delivery, which allows face-to-face and group work and also virtual services (internet, video conferencing and phone calls). However, in some cases, consideration also needs to be given to stopping or reducing services.

Hampshire County Council is seeking residents' and stakeholders' views on proposals to make changes to the Public Health services outlined above via a consultation which opens at midday on 14 June 2021 and closes at 11:59 pm on 9 August 2021.

The consultation will also seek to understand the potential impacts of these options to help inform its final approach.

3. Scope of the Task and Finish Working Group

Objectives:

- To provide input to the consideration of possible options relating to proposals to make changes to some Public Health services (outlined above).
- To review feedback from engagement with stakeholders, including service users.

Exclusions:

It is not possible for the HASC to recommend a course of action which fetters the professional discretion of officers to perform their professional roles, or which fetters the discretion of the County Council to take action in future. When considering its recommendations, the Working Group may wish to seek legal advice.

Outcomes:

- To provide updates to the wider HASC on the progress of considerations when appropriate.
- To make recommendations regarding proposals to the wider HASC.
- To submit a report to the wider HASC when recommendations regarding the future of Substance Misuse Services, Sexual Health Services, Stop Smoking Services and Public Health Nursing Services appear before the Committee for pre-decision scrutiny.

4. Method

The Working Group will meet with department officers to consider the evidence leading to recommendations for decision on the future of Substance Misuse Services, Sexual Health Services, Stop Smoking Services and Public Health Nursing Services. At each meeting the group will provide oversight, scrutiny and comment on progress with the review of options.

Where the working group requires further information in order to pursue their purpose as outlined in the scope, such information will be requested.

5. Membership

The Working Group shall be a cross-party group made up of County Councillor Members of the HASC. (*suggested: 3 conservative, 1 liberal democrat, 1 labour, 1 independent*)

6. Meetings

The Working Group will hold an initial meeting to review their scope, understand the timeline for this work and plan future meetings. After this meeting, it shall meet as often as required to satisfactorily explore this topic.

7. Code of Conduct

Elected Members of the Working Group shall comply with the Hampshire County Council Code of conduct applicable to Members.

8. Reporting

The Working Group will make an update to the HASC on the progress of considerations when appropriate. It will provide comment to the wider HASC when recommendations regarding the future of Substance Misuse Services, Sexual Health Services, Stop Smoking Services and Public Health Nursing Services appear before the Committee for pre-decision scrutiny.

The Working Group will cease to exist once its purpose has been fulfilled.