

PART 1 - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: **Adult and Community PDS Committee**

Date: **14th April 2010**

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: **NHS HEALTH CHECK WORKING GROUP 2009/10**

Contact Officer: Kerry Nicholls, Democratic Services Officer
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Chief Officer: Mark Bowen, Director of Legal, Administrative and Customer Services

Ward: All

1. Reason for report

The NHS Health Check Working Group is the forum through which this Committee exercises its health scrutiny role and can provide comments to the Care Quality Commission on the performance of the health trusts that serve the people of Bromley.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

The Committee is requested to endorse the report and recommendations from the NHS Health Check Working Group.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing policy. The Committee's health scrutiny role supports the Local Area Agreement aim of improving health.
 2. BBB Priority: N/A.
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: N/A
 2. Ongoing costs: N/A.
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Democratic Services
 4. Total current budget for this head: £435,000
 5. Source of funding: N/A
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 0
 3. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: Meetings of the NHS Health Check Working Group are supported by 1 Officer from Adult and Community Services and 1 Officer from Legal, Democratic and Customer Services
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Non-statutory - Government guidance. The Health and Social Care Act 2001 (Section 7) introduced a requirement for local authorities with social services responsibilities to make arrangements for the scrutiny of the planning, provision and operation of health services. However, there is no compulsion to operate in the NHS Health Check process.
 2. Call-in: Call-in is not applicable. This report does not involve an executive decision.
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): The effective provision of health services affects all residents of the Borough.
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? N/A.
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the new independent regulator of all health and adult social care provided by the NHS, local authorities, voluntary organisations and private companies in England as well as primary care trusts and local councils in their commissioning of health and social care services. It aims to provide assurance that basic core standards are being met, improvements are being sought, healthcare services are providing value for money and performance information is being brought together to support informed decision making by patients, the public and NHS staff.
- 3.2 Through the NHS Health Check Working Group, this Committee can exercise its health scrutiny role by enabling Members to consider the quality of health and adult social care delivered across the Borough, and report their findings to the CQC if this is felt to be necessary.
- 3.3 In late 2006 this Committee set up a Member Working Group to consider how it could contribute more effectively to the Annual Health Check process in 2006/07 and in future years. The Working Group was re-appointed for 2009/10. It comprises Councillors Judi Ellis (Chairman), Carole Hubbard, Charles Rideout and Brenda Thompson. The terms of reference of the Health Check Working Group were amended following the abolition of the Annual Health Check and the introduction of new reporting procedures to the CQC. Guidance from the CQC advises overview and scrutiny committees that a commentary about the NHS Trust's declaration in Bromley for the NHS performance ratings in 2009/10 is no longer necessary. Instead, the CQC invites overview and scrutiny committees to consider the quality of health and adult social care delivered across the Borough, providing information as appropriate.
- 3.4 During 2009/10 the Working Group has met on six occasions to review its terms of reference, plan a work programme, interview senior representatives of South London NHS Trust, Bromley Primary Care Trust, Oxleas NHS Trust and the Ambulance Service, and decide on the issues that it wishes to comment on (see report at Appendix 1).

Non-Applicable Sections:	Policy Implications, Financial Implications, Legal Implications, Personnel Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	<i>Voices in Action: Your Part in our Assessment of health and Adult Social Care in 2009/10</i> , Care Quality Commission (2009)