

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel
MEETING DATE:	20 September 2013
TITLE:	Support to Ambulance JHOSC
WARD:	ALL
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report:	
None	

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 A letter from Ambulance JHOSC (Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee) Chair Cllr Clarke was received at the Wellbeing PD&S Panel meeting of July 5th 2013. Cllr Clarke described how the local ambulance organisational infrastructure had recently changed, whereby Great Western Ambulance Service (GWAS) had been acquired by South West Ambulance Service (SWAS) on 1st February 2013. An ambulance JHOSC Panel had previously met to consider issues of concern across the former GWAS area. With the advent of SWAS, Cllr Clarke queried the future scrutiny landscape.
- 1.2 In considering Cllr Clarke's letter, the Panel were minded to request further information to allow them to consider the financial, resource and constitutional implications of the proposals

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Wellbeing PD&S panel is asked to consider:

- 2.1 The resource, financial and governance information contained in this report and, in so doing, respond to the questions raised by Cllr Clarke;
- 2.2 Specifically, whether the Wellbeing Panel supports the continuation of an Ambulance JHOSC for the former GWAS area based on the current model of officer support or;
- 2.3 As an alternative, would the Panel support the principle of a fixed term arrangement until the new health arrangements are fully established.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Financial implications

- (1) Bristol City Council provides lead scrutiny officer support to the existing JHOSC arrangements, and have indicated they are minded to continue doing so, hence minimal financial impact to B&NES in this regard.
- (2) B&NES Council Democratic Services Officers provide clerking/minute taking to the JHOSC meeting on a rotational basis. This last happened in 2010 and 2012 (1 meeting in each year). The time commitment to support this activity is approx. 2 days for each meeting (approx £555). In addition, Democratic Services Officers may have some general communication and interaction between the JHOSC and Panel Members. The cost of this is minimal, at most approx. 1hr per month.
- (3) B&NES Policy Development & Scrutiny Officers also support JHOSC in a limited way. This could include liaison with officers of the lead authority, circulating minutes and contact with panel members. These tasks would take a minimal amount of time, with at most approx. 1hr per month.
- (4) Cllr Clarke reports that SWAS Foundation Trust are prepared to provide support to JHOSC. As this support is unquantified, it is difficult to acknowledge how this may impact on B&NES financially.

4 THE REPORT

- 4.1 Cllr Clarke's letter discusses a number of working arrangements for Ambulance JHOSC. If the scrutiny model were to remain on a regional basis similar to that used under the GWAS era, existing Terms of Reference contained in the Constitution would be sufficient to accommodate this way of working as they include the principle of establishing joint scrutiny arrangements.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 The risks associated with this proposal are minimal.

6 EQUALITIES

- 6.1 There are no specific equalities considerations that relate to this issue.

7 ADVICE SOUGHT

- 7.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) has had the opportunity to input to this report and has cleared it for publication.

Contact person	Jo Morrison, Democratic Services Manager / Liz Richardson, Lead Policy Development & Scrutiny Project Officer
Background papers	None
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

