



Health & Community Involvement Scrutiny Commission – Summary of Work 2012-13

The Health & Community Involvement Scrutiny Commission have a unique democratic mandate to act across the whole health economy in Leicester.

The Scrutiny Commission is set up to examine, challenge and influence the decisions that are being taken around health and community involvement issues by the City Mayor and his executive, so that power is used wisely and the Council's performance is improved.

During 2012/13, the Commission scrutinised a number of areas, including:

- The quality of the health services in Leicester e.g. *the Dementia Strategy, the Homelessness Strategy and Health Through Warmth issues, affecting vulnerable people in the city.*
- The transformation of the NHS and future health services in Leicester
- How mental health services are delivered
- How drug and alcohol services are delivered
- The Council's engagement with voluntary community sector organisations
- Public Health Funding

The commission will listen to and work with stakeholders and patient panel forums, e.g. Healthwatch, in order to ensure that citizens receive a good standard of health care from all health service providers in Leicester.

Key areas covered in 2012-13

The commission also has a remit to scrutinise community involvement issues. The commission listened to the '**Concerns by the Voluntary Community Sector in the City**'. The review gathered evidence relating to the challenges and difficulties faced by the voluntary sector and the lead commissioners in this current climate of funding cuts and changes to commissioning processes. The review also highlighted the positive contribution, commitment and value of the voluntary sector services, and of volunteers, to support the communities in Leicester. The key findings of the review were submitted to the City Mayor to inform the council's budget consultation process.

A special health scrutiny meeting held jointly with Leicestershire County Council and Rutland County Council to scrutinise the decision to close the **Children's Heart Unit at Glenfield Hospital**. This specific review heard key evidence from representatives of University Hospital Leicester (UHL), University of Leicester, and Patient Panels (Links). The findings were submitted to the Secretary of State for Health, which led to an independent reconfiguration panel coming back to Leicester to review the original decision. A decision from the Secretary of State for Health is still pending.

Continued from 2011-12

An in depth review completed by the commission in the previous year into '**Mental Health Services of Working Age Adults**' was revisited this year. The commission examined the previous recommendations, identified progress and received an update on the changes in health and social care service provision. Evidence for this review was received from the voluntary sector and health and social care.

This report will be concluded in May 2013 and the findings will be sent to the City Mayor and local health care commissioners and providers to enable them to improve services.

On-going reviews

The commission has a remit to regularly **scrutinise Performance Data, Annual Accounts and Complaints Data of Health bodies** in the city e.g. University Hospitals of Leicester, East Midlands Ambulance Service and LOROs. Work on this is done annually or quarterly to oversee that these organisations are providing a high quality and value for money service to patients.

The commission will continue to review and monitor the performance of Leicester City Clinical Commissioning Group, Leicester City Council and providers of public health services in the city.

The commission will monitor the city council's forward plan and the work of the new Health & Wellbeing Board.

Key work areas for 2013-14

The commission will continue to gather the views and experiences of organisations and user groups, to be better informed about the key health-related issues in Leicester. The commission will be reviewing and monitoring health related topics of interest during 2013-14, work has already started to plan its work programme for the year.

The Francis Public Inquiry Report into the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust has raised key concerns nationally for the way in which health services operate and care for patients. The commission will look at its own role of how it scrutinises health care services in the city, in order to address some of the key implications of the Francis Inquiry.

The **Drug & Alcohol Services Review** will be concluded and the commission intends to monitor the lead commissioners responsible for the new commissioning plans and processes for delivering these services.



Councillor Michael Cooke, Chair



Councillor Deborah Sangster, Vice Chair

**Health & Community Involvement Scrutiny Commission,
LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL.**