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Briefing Report for members of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Commission

26th November 2013

Feedback from East Midlands Regional Health Scrutiny Network Meeting

Purpose

This briefing report updates members of the commission on the issues discussed at the East Midlands Regional Health Scrutiny Network meeting on 21st October 2013.

Report

This regional meeting was hosted by Nottingham City Council. Councillor Michael Cooke together with council representatives from the East Midlands region attended, plus Brenda Cook, Regional Advocate from the Centre for Public Scrutiny.

The main items discussed were:

a) The future for regional working on health issues

Agreed that it was beneficial to continue the Regional Network for Health Scrutiny working, as it is important to share knowledge on scrutinising common issues of interest e.g. EMAS.

b) Taking an overview of NHS complaints

In September 2013, the Centre for Public Scrutiny published its Briefing for Council Scrutiny about the Francis Report. CfPS guidance states that “*scrutiny is not a way to resolve individual complaints*”, and that scrutiny “*should not ignore personal stories, but should have ways to test whether personal experiences are symptomatic of wider problems – amplifying the voices and concerns of the public where necessary to affect change*”

Agreed that Health Scrutiny Committees need to better understand the NHS complaints process and procedures, in order to take an overview of NHS complaints.

c) Future Regional Health Scrutiny Events

Brenda Cook reported that the Centre for Public Scrutiny plan to deliver 3 health scrutiny regional events in January 2014, one within each sub-region, i.e. West Midlands, East Midlands and East of England. Health scrutiny elected members and officers will be invited to attend.

These events will partly focus on a number of common themes that have been identified, such as:

- a) The need to be clear about how to address substantial changes to health services and how the requirements will work in practice.
- b) Developing relationships with national/regional partners (Monitor, CQC, NHS England, Public Health England)
- c) Scrutiny of specialised services
- d) Making scrutiny effective within current economic and resource pressures

Councillor Cooke has offered for Leicester City Council to host the East Midlands event, which is planned to take place on 9th January 2014.

Councillor Michael Cooke

Chair of Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Commission