

**Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Luton, Norfolk, Peterborough, Southend, Suffolk and Thurrock Joint Health Scrutiny Committee.**

**1<sup>st</sup> February 2008**

**Agenda Item 6**

**Composition and Size of the Joint Committee**

**Report of the Advisor**

1. The Committee will comprise one member of each of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Luton, Norfolk, Peterborough, Southend, Suffolk and Thurrock Councils as the relevant Social Services authorities in the area served by the East of England Strategic Health Authority. Members will be politically proportional to the membership of their local authority, unless both:

- that authority's full Council agrees, with no-one dissenting, to waive the political proportionality requirement for their own members
- and
- Members of all authorities represented on the joint committee agree to waive that requirement.

Appointments to the Joint Committee have been made by the constituent bodies to reflect their own political proportionalities in accordance with the relevant legislation.

2. The Committee is requested to determine whether it wishes to allow for substitute members if a named member of the Committee is indisposed. The advice of the Eastern Region Health Scrutiny Chairs' Forum is that each authority should be allowed to nominate one named member to substitute for either of their appointed members. (A copy of the Minutes of the Chairs' Forum is attached as Appendix A to this report). Those Minutes also recommend in paragraph (c) that *"the new Regional Joint Health Scrutiny Committee to be asked to consider co-opting a member nominated by EERA on to the Committee. If one of the main political parties is not represented on the Committee, if it so wished, EERA could use their nomination to address this"*. The Committee is asked to specifically address this issue. EERA has nominated Councillor Nick Hollinghurst as its representative.

3. The Committee is also requested to determine a quorum for its meetings. The Chairs Group has suggested that a quorum of members representing five local authorities (ie excluding coopted members) would be appropriate. This represents one half of the Committee.

**4. Recommendation**

**The Joint Committee is recommended to agree that:**

- a) the Committee comprises one member of each of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Luton, Norfolk, Peterborough, Southend, Suffolk and Thurrock Councils as the relevant Social Services authorities in the area served by the East of England Strategic Health Authority**
- b) named substitute members be allowed if the nominated member is indisposed**
- c) EERA's nomination of a member to the Committee be accepted**
- d) that a quorum of members representing five local authorities (ie excluding coopted members), one half of the Committee, be agreed.**

**Bill Hamilton  
Advisor to the Committee**

**APPENDIX A**

**Extract from the Minutes of the East of England Health Scrutiny Chairs Forum held on 8 October 2007.**

**9. ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL JOINT HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE(S)**

The Forum discussed the proposal to form two Regional Joint Health Scrutiny Committees covering the following topics:

- i) Acute Services Review,
- ii) Improving Lives – Saving Lives.

After detailed discussion regarding the purpose and administration of the potential scrutiny committees, the following was agreed:

- a) Each constituent authority to be asked to nominate one member and one named substitute to serve on one Regional Joint Health Scrutiny Committee.
- b) The Joint Committee will scrutinise:
  - Acute Services Review,
  - Improving Lives, Saving Lives,
  - Our NHS – Our Future (the ‘Darzi’ Review),
  - When available, the new SHA ‘vision’ document for health in the East of England NHS.
- c) The new Regional Joint Health Scrutiny Committee to be asked to consider co-opting a member nominated by EERA on to the committee. If one of the main political parties is not represented on the Committee, if it so wished, EERA could use their nomination to address this. (note EERA = East of England Regional Assembly)
- d) The Joint Committee to prepare a budget and work plan to be reported back to the constituent authorities.
- e) Bedfordshire County Council to be the lead authority and is authorised to recharge constituent authorities for the administration of the Joint Committee.
- f) The Joint Committee to appoint a Chairman and Vice Chairman and agree Terms of Reference at its inaugural meeting.

It was agreed that the preferred way forward would be to hold an informal meeting of nominated members during the morning of the inaugural meeting followed by a formal meeting in the afternoon when administration would be dealt with together with formal appointments of Chairman etc. The next meeting would then be able to begin dealing with the substantive scrutiny issues. It was also agreed that if possible, two meetings should be held this financial year with dates to be agreed for the following year. (END of Minute)