

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

1st February 2008

Agenda Item 7

Terms of Reference of the Joint Committee

Report of the Advisor

1. The Joint Committee is invited to determine its terms of reference. The Committee may wish to consider the following

"to review and scrutinise, in accordance with Regulations under Section 7 of The Health and Social Act 2001 and the Secretary of State for Health's Direction of 17 July 2003, matters relating to the substantial developments or variations in NHS services in respect of the document "A Strategic Vision for the East of England NHS" being consulted upon by the relevant NHS bodies across the whole of the areas of the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Luton, Norfolk, Peterborough, Southend, Suffolk and Thurrock Social Services Authorities and specifically including the documents, "*Improving Lives: Saving Lives*", "*Our NHS – Our Future*" (*the Darzi review*) and, when available, the East of England's Strategic Health Authority's 'Vision' document for Acute and other Health Services in the East of England, together with any relevant technical papers, including the Strategic Health Authority's and Primary Care Trusts' proposed plan(s) for implementing the proposals in "A Strategic Vision for the East of England NHS" over the next five years. "

2. This form of words will enable the Joint Committee to focus on those issues for which it has responsibility, thereby avoiding confusion between the role of the Joint Committee and the responsibilities of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees of the constituent authorities.

3. The Joint Committee is established to deal with the proposals in "A Strategic Vision for the East of England NHS" rather than as a standing committee. At the conclusion of its business the committee will disband itself, having completed its job. (The Committee may wish to consider arrangements for monitoring the impact/success of the strategy/proposals set out in the Vision document)

4. The Committee is **recommended** to determine its terms of Reference as suggested in paragraph 1 above and agree that the initial focus of the Joint Committee is as suggested in paragraph 3 above.

Bill Hamilton
Adviser to the Committee

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