

Regional Scrutiny Network Meeting – Thursday 8th March 2012,
Muirhead Tower, University of Birmingham
Briefing Note for the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Attendees from Redditch Borough Council: Councillor Mould

Topics Discussed:

- 1) Police and Social Responsibility Act - Jacky Courtney, West Midlands Police Authority.
 - 2) Health and Social Care – Jason Evans, NHS Black Country
 - 3) Health and Wellbeing Boards and Regional Health Scrutiny Networks
 - 4) Localism Act – National and Local Issues - John Cade, INLOGOV
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- 1) Police and Social Responsibility Act
 - A £5000 deposit will be required for each candidate
 - There is poor awareness amongst of the public of this. The election of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) is to be held in conjunction with the Mayoral elections in November 2012 in all areas apart from London.
 - The newly elected PCC will take up office a week after their election
 - It will take 70 days to setting precept from taking up office
 - All staff posts will be politically restricted
 - Police and Crime Panels will have 15 political members (at least 1 from each local authority) and 2 independent members.
 - 2) Health and Social Care (presentation handout to be circulated during the meeting).
 - Three clinical commissioning groups will be established in Worcestershire: Bromsgrove and Redditch; Wyre Forest; and South Worcestershire.
 - By 2016 the Commissioning Support Service will be a non NHS body.
 - Responsibility for Public Health will transfer from local NHS to the County Council.
 - The Localism Act gives health scrutiny powers to counties and districts.
 - GP led commissioning groups will hold the risk for their own budgets.

The Overview and Scrutiny will therefore need to consider how it will scrutinise health.

- 3) Localism Act – John Cade, INLOGOV
 - Around 40 Councils are considering returning back to the Committees system. Almost all of these councils are Unitary or County Councils in the South East
 - This year, Brighton & Hove, the London Borough of Sutton, and Nottinghamshire will all be returning to the old Committees system.
 - Nottinghamshire will not retain a specific scrutiny body.
 - Hybrid models, such as Kent, are also expected to be created. In this system, a Cabinet Member who chairs a committee will make a decision after the committee itself has pre-scrutinised an item.

General Matters

Councillor Mike Morgan, Malvern Hills DC, was elected as West Midlands Network Chairman for 2012/13.