

Memorandum of Understanding between the Buckinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board and Buckinghamshire Overview and Scrutiny

Introduction and Background

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) establishes a framework for co-operation between the Buckinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) and Buckinghamshire Overview and Scrutiny (with particular reference to the committee assigned with health scrutiny powers. This committee will be referred to as the HOSC for the purposes of this document). This MoU is a statement of intent for both bodies working together and is not intended to create any legal obligations.

The HWB is the key forum where leaders from the health and care system will work together to improve the health and wellbeing of residents and reduce health inequalities. Board members will collaborate to understand their local community's needs, agree priorities and encourage commissioners to work in a more joined up way.

The HOSC is a County Council committee whose aim is to improve the health of local people and reduce health inequalities in local communities. Its interest extends to all organisations which have an impact on health, and so is not limited to the local authority and NHS. Elected members from the County Council and from each of the four District Councils sit on the committee.

Core values

The Board and the HOSC will start from an assumed position of: Openness, Honesty, Partnership, and Collaboration.

The Health and Wellbeing Board will:

- Ensure that a representative(s) of the Health and Wellbeing Board attend Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings on request where reasonable notice has been given.
- Provide information to the HOSC on request where reasonable notice has been given.
- Provide a written response to HOSC recommendations with 28 days of the request.
- Provide proactive communication to the Health Scrutiny Committee on any issues affecting health provision in the county
- Involve the HOSC at key stages in the development and finalisation of the following documents:
 - i) Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy,
 - ii) Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, and
 - iii) Annual Report

The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will:

- Provide requests for attendance and information with reasonable notice.
- Raise issues of concern that relate to the health and wellbeing of the Buckinghamshire population to the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- Monitor the County Council's compliance with its statutory duty to take such steps as it considers appropriate for improving the health of the people in its area.
- Hold the Board to account for the delivery of its statutory responsibilities, including:
 - i) Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy,
 - ii) Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, and
 - iii) Annual Report
- Share its forward plan of work with the Health and Wellbeing Board
- Provide updates to the Health and Wellbeing Board, where appropriate, on key findings and recommendations from task and finish group reports
- Have the power to call-in decisions if executive functions of the Council are delegated to the Board at any time.

The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will not:

- Have the power to call in decisions relating to the Board's statutory functions¹.

¹ Whilst the HOSC will have powers to scrutinise the discharge of functions by health and wellbeing boards, the core functions will not be subject to call in as the board is not a committee of the council's cabinet and so these are not executive functions. See separate HWB protocol for summary of its statutory functions.

**Approved by the Buckinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board and Buckinghamshire
Overview and Scrutiny**

Signed..... Position

Date.....

Signed..... Position

Date.....