HEALTH AND ADULT SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE (HASSC)

Scope
The scrutiny of the work of the NHS bodies serving Barking and Dagenham in accordance with the Health and Social Care Act 2001 and associated Regulations and Guidance and the provision, planning, management and performance of services relating to adult social care.

The HASSC's functions as determined by Assembly:

- Scrutinising any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health service in the borough or accessed by Barking and Dagenham residents.
- Requesting information from NHS bodies and any health service provider. Exempt from this power are requests for information that are confidential (i.e. information that identifies a living person or is prohibited under any enactment) or relate to NHS Trusts in special administration (this function may be carried out by the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee in accordance with Part 2, Chapter 14, paragraph 2).
- Requesting attendance from any member or employee of a relevant NHS body or health service provider to attend before it to answer any questions; provided those questions do not relate to confidential information or information that they would be entitled to refuse to provide in a court of law. The request for attendance may also be refused if reasonable notice has not been given (this function may be carried out by the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee in accordance with Part 2, Chapter 14, paragraph 2).
- Acting on behalf of the Council as the statutory consultee where NHS bodies propose substantial developments or variations in the provision of services and thus have a duty to consult with the local authority before taking a decision. When being consulted with, the HASSC must notify the relevant NHS body of its response to the consultation and any intention to refer the matter to the Secretary of State within the timescales agreed by both parties (this function may be carried out by the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee in accordance with Part 2, Chapter 14, paragraph 2).
- Exercising the Council’s right of referral to the Secretary of State on substantial variations to local health services. The HASSC will have regard to the criteria and process for making a referral to the Secretary of State which are prescribed in the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013.
- Acting on behalf of the Council to make all arrangements for establishing and participating in joint health overview and scrutiny committees with local authorities that are affected by service re-configurations. Any such joint overview and scrutiny committee shall have such terms of reference, and shall exist for so long as the appointing authorities may agree.
- Receiving referrals from the local Healthwatch on matters relating to the planning, provision, and operation of health services in the borough, acknowledging receipt within five working days. Further to the regulations, Healthwatch can expect a referral to be discussed at the next formal meeting of HASSC, or at a formal meeting within three months (whichever is most
timely). In accordance with the regulations the HASSC is obligated to keep the referrer informed of any action taken in relation to the matter.

- Holding to account the Health and Wellbeing Board for the delivery of its functions, and in doing so, having particular regard to the robustness of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Health and Wellbeing Strategy as effective documents to ensure commissioning of health and social care services is reflective of local need.
- Presenting recommendations arising from scrutiny investigations in accordance with the Council’s agreed processes, submitting recommendations to the relevant decision-maker as determined by Council’s Scheme of Delegation. Where recommendations or reports are issued to NHS bodies/health service providers, that body or provider must, if requested to do so, respond to the HASSC within 28 days.
- Monitoring progress of implementation of recommendations in accordance with the Council’s agreed processes, ensuring that decision-makers have due regard to findings and recommendations arising from scrutiny investigations.
- Representing local people and bringing local concerns and feedback about health and social care services to the attention of leaders within the local health and social care economy, formally advising the Health and Wellbeing Board of any such concerns in the process.
- Monitoring of performance indicators that fall within the remit of the Select Committee.
- Addressing any Call-ins or Councillor Calls for Action as allocated by the Designated Scrutiny Officer. Where the decision called-in is owned by the Health and Wellbeing Board the HASSC will, by default, be the receiving Select Committee of that Call-in regardless of the subject of the decision.
- Considering petitions in accordance with the Council’s Petition Scheme.

The HASSC's functions as determined by Statute

All the powers of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out in section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000, Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and Social Care Act 2001 (including associated Regulations and Guidance).