

## HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14 November 2022

<b>Title:</b> Scrutiny Review on the potential of the Voluntary and Community Sector 2022/23	
<b>Report of the Director of Community Participation and Prevention</b>	
<b>Open Report</b>	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Wards Affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> No
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<b>Accountable Director:</b> Rhodri Rowlands, Director of Community Participation and Prevention	
<b>Accountable Strategic Leadership Director:</b> Fiona Taylor, Acting Chief Executive, LBBB and Place Partnership Lead	
<b>Summary</b> <p>The Health Scrutiny Committee has statutory powers to hold local NHS commissioners and providers to account and as part of this work, the Committee may undertake a 'scrutiny review' into an area of interest to which it could add value by making recommendations for improvement.</p> <p>At the last meeting of the Committee, Members agreed to undertake a scrutiny review in 2022/23 on the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) to consider how it may contribute to reducing health inequalities within communities and identify opportunities to ensure that the VCS and residents have a meaningful role in shaping future strategy/ service delivery.</p> <p>This report proposes Terms of Reference which would form the basis of the Scrutiny Review.</p>	
<b>Recommendation(s)</b> <p>The Health Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) Agree the proposed Terms of Reference, as outlined in this report, for the 2022/23 Scrutiny Review on the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS); and</li><li>(ii) Request officers to produce a project plan, outlining the arrangements for the relevant investigation sessions and timeline for completing the review.</li></ul>	
<b>Reason(s)</b> <p>To achieve good outcomes from a Scrutiny Review and ensure it is focussed, it is essential that the proposed area for review is scoped, using a set of Terms of Reference.</p>	

## 1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 As part of their annual work programme, scrutiny committees may wish to complete an investigation into an area of Member and/or public concern to make recommendations in order to improve services. These investigations are referred to as 'scrutiny reviews'. A scrutiny review usually involves a number of different stages including:
- Agreeing the subject matter of the review according to given criteria;
  - Drafting the terms of reference for the review (these are a set of questions/ specific areas the Committee wishes to consider, with a view to making recommendations for improvement in those areas);
  - Scoping the review (scoping refers to a detailed project plan outlining the suggested methods for gathering evidence including potential participants/ contributors to the review. It is a timetable designed to deliver what is set out in the terms of reference and includes the estimated date for the completion of the review, in accordance with internal scrutiny procedures and protocols);
  - Carrying out the review in accordance with the agreed scope;
  - Agreeing the contents of the scrutiny review report including the recommendations;
  - Sharing the report with those involved with the review and finalising the report;
  - Publicising the report; and
  - Monitoring the impact of the review.
- 1.2 At the last meeting of the Committee, following a suggestion by the Chair, Members agreed to undertake a scrutiny review in this municipal year on the potential of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in shaping and delivering health services, and the Chair agreed to present the proposed Terms of Reference for the Review to the next meeting.
- 1.3 Following the last meeting, the Chair met with officers to draft the Terms of Reference for the Review, which the Committee is asked to agree. The proposed Terms of Reference are:
- (i) How is the VCS helping to reduce health inequalities within communities, both separately and in partnership with the statutory sector; and
  - (ii) How can we work better at 'place' (Barking and Dagenham) and sub-borough levels to ensure that the VCS and residents have an active and meaningful role in informing and shaping future strategy / service delivery?
- 1.4 These questions would be asked with a view to making recommendations around what the statutory and VCS partners can do in the near future to realise opportunities and remove barriers.
- 1.5 During the discussions, the Chair formed the view that it was also very important to consider what the partnership could do to ensure equitable and early access to the right help; however, as the Review would need to be concluded in this municipal

year, it was felt that to include this issue as part of the Review would not be feasible in terms of time. It is therefore suggested that the Committee make a recommendation that the new Committee of 2023/24 undertake a scrutiny review into the issue of equitable and early access to health services.

- 1.6 Assuming that the Committee agrees the proposed Terms of Reference for the Review, officers will draft a project plan, with a timeline for completion. The Committee is asked to note that as part of the scrutiny review process, Members will be required to attend sessions outside of the Committee's formal meetings, in order to collate sufficient information to answer the above Terms of Reference. The project plan shall be circulated to the Committee in advance of the next formal meeting for agreement.

**Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report: None**

**List of appendices: None**