Scrubtny of Eye Care Services

Report of the Corporate Director of Adult & Community Services

Open Report | For Decision
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**Summary:**
This report sets out the proposed scoping of the scrutiny review on Eye Care Services.

**Recommendation(s):**
The Health & Adult Services Select Committee is (HASSC) asked to agree the proposed scope for its Scrutiny Review on Eye Care Services.

**Reason(s):**
To achieve good outcomes from a Scrutiny Review, it is best practice to undertake a scoping of the review which sets out key milestones, including the methodology for engaging with relevant stakeholders and gathering information for evidence based recommendations.

1. **Introduction and Background**

1.1 An options paper was presented to HASSC on 30 September 2014, outlining suggested topics for the Committee to review over the next two municipal years. The HASSC agreed to undertake a review of eye care services, commencing in January 2015.

Areas to scrutinise and explore include:

- Whether there are gaps or obstacles in current service and pathways
- How supply and take-up of Optometry (Opticians) and other eye service compares with other London boroughs and the national average
- Whether local low vision services for Blind and Partially Sighted people are fit for purpose and whether take-up is appropriate
- CCG plans regarding eye care services
The role of GPs
- Emotional and other support for people newly diagnosed
- How well local services for blind and partially sighted people rate when benchmarked against the national “seeing it my way” charter

2. Methodology

2.1 It is proposed that the scrutiny be conducted via a series of structured meetings.

These will:
- Set the scene, nationally – e.g. the prevalence of sight loss and the issues faced by visually impaired people
- Explore the situation locally – e.g. the adequacy of local eye care services
- Tease out issues and areas for further consideration and development.

2.2 In addition to the meetings, visits to relevant groups and services can be arranged for HASSC members.

2.3 It is also proposed that a survey be undertaken to gauge use of eye care services and views about their effectiveness and ease of access. This could be targeted at a sample of local people who either use or are highly likely to need eye care services.

2.4 It is proposed that the scrutiny commences in January 2015 and concludes in September 2015. The proposed process is outlined below.

3. Proposed Programme

3.1 HASSC meeting on 20 January 2015 – “Scene Setting”

This session will put the area for scrutiny into context and highlight:

- The current prevalence of sight loss
- Future demographic changes
- The relationship between sight loss and public health
- The impact of sight loss
- Problems visually impaired people face

3.2 Presentations will be made by Peter Corbett (Chief Executive of Thomas Pocklington – a leading, national Eye Care Charity) and Phil Ambler (formerly the National Coordinator for local implementation of the UK Vision Strategy).

3.3 There will also be an interactive session during which HASSC members can have the opportunity to try on simulation spectacles to gain a greater appreciation of the most common, serious eye conditions.
3.4 **HASCC Workshop on 4 March 2015 – “The local picture in Sharper Focus”**

Presentations will be made by Matthew Cole (Director of Public Health) and leading local eye care clinicians. These presentations will cover:

- The local prevalence of major eye care conditions
- The relationship between eye care and other local health issues
- Prevention and eye health
- Local services and pathways

3.5 The workshops will include an interactive, exhibition style session. There will be stalls and the opportunity to view and trial equipment; obtain information about services and talk to service users, professionals, and service providers.

Contributors will include:

- The local Optical Committee (representing local Opticians)
- The Vision Strategy Group
- Ophthalmologists and other clinicians from Queens Hospital
- RNIB
- Macular Disease Society
- Vipers (local organisation of visually impaired people)
- Magnifier and Lighting Workshop
- Bridge to Vision
- Electronic visual aids

3.6 **Survey March – April 2015**

Service user survey of usage and attitudes towards eye care services

3.7 **June 2015 HASCC meeting (exact date to be set)**

Initial findings will be fed back and stakeholders will be invited to answer questions and take part in further debate and exploration. Survey findings will also be fed back.

3.8 **June 2015 Visits by HASCC members to local eye care services and groups**

Visits can be arranged for HASCC members to local services. Suggestions include:

- The VIPERS Group (local, fully constituted group of Visually Impaired People)
- Macular Disease Society (fully constituted group affiliated to the national organisation)
- Low vision service at Queens Hospital
3.9 **August 2015 – Draft Report**

Headline issues and findings will be presented to HASSC members, Councillor Worby and other stakeholders for comment.

3.10 **September HASSC – Final Report**

Scrutiny Report, findings and recommended actions will be presented to HASSC for sign off.

4. **March 2016 HASSC Monitoring of recommendations**

In March 2016 the first monitoring report on the progress of implementing the recommendations will be presented to HASSC.