

DECISION-MAKER:	HEALTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL
SUBJECT:	<i>HEALTHWATCH</i> SOUTHAMPTON AND TRANSITIONAL LINK SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS
DATE OF DECISION:	22ND JUNE 2011
REPORT OF:	HEALTH & ADULT SOCIAL CARE - HEAD OF INTEGRATED STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING
STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
None.	

BRIEF SUMMARY

This report updates members of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel on progress towards the establishment of a local *HealthWatch* pathfinder project and new support arrangements for Southampton's LINK (S-LINK) that continues to be a statutory requirement during the period of transition.

The briefing also outlines plans for Southampton City Council's contribution to a Department of Health-sponsored local *HealthWatch* Pathfinder programme – in partnership with Hampshire County Council, the Isle of Wight Council and Portsmouth City Council – and brief details of the expected outcomes and key milestones (see Appendix).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) To note the new arrangements for supporting Southampton's Local Involvement Network (LINK) from 1st July 2011.
- (ii) To note and comment on the plans being put in place for establishing a new local *HealthWatch* organisation for the City to replace the current LINK, following legislation later this year.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 requires local authorities to make necessary arrangements to support a Local Involvement Network (LINK) for their area. This Act remains in force until such time as new legislation (in the form of the Health and Social Care Bill) supersedes it.
2. Following the government's response to the NHS Future Forum's recommendations it is likely that the proposed reforms leading to the creation of local *HealthWatch* organisations as a replacement for LINKs will be agreed later this year with an anticipated implementation date of July 2012.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

3. Both the City Council and the LINK are keen to contract with a local provider of host services for the LINK when the current contract with HAPUK ends in

June 2011; due to the short length of the new contract period and the relatively low contract price it has been possible to secure an exemption from an open tendering exercise and reduce costs associated with this.

4. The Department of Health has encouraged local authorities to take part in a programme of local *HealthWatch* pathfinders and 74 applications have been received including a combined bid from Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth Councils. The rationale for this collaborative approach (rather than the City Council working in isolation) is to explore opportunities for jointly procuring elements of *HealthWatch*, thereby potentially saving money.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

5. New Host Arrangements for Southampton's LINK

Negotiations at an officer level have now been completed between Southampton Voluntary Services (SVS) and members of the S-LINK steering group about the provision of host services for the LINK covering a 9 month period from 1st July 2011 prior to the anticipated establishment of new replacement local *HealthWatch* organisations in 2012.

6. Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of Wight & Portsmouth (SHIP) *HealthWatch* Pathfinder Programme

The City Council, working in partnership with the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Local Government Association and Hampshire County, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth City Councils has agreed to establish a collaborative *HealthWatch* Pathfinder programme.

7. The local authorities from across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight have identified four key themes that will form the work programme during the first preparatory phase of local *HealthWatch* development:
 - A. identifying synergies with other components of the NHS and social care transformation agenda and developing organisational models for each local *HealthWatch* so that they can add real value to the local health and social care economy
 - B. maintaining and strengthening current LINK activities in order to provide a strong legacy for the incoming *HealthWatch* organisations
 - C. developing local authority commissioning capacity to enable effective delivery of new *HealthWatch* functions in respect of greater choice
 - D. exploring options for the joint procurement of new *HealthWatch* functions in respect of an NHS Independent Complaints Advocacy Service
8. During the second (implementation) phase of *HealthWatch* development it will be necessary to use and apply the learning from the above to inform

implementation and transition plans. The key post-legislative themes to address here will be:

E. effective sourcing and procurement of new *HealthWatch* organisations

F. development of the skills and competencies of local individuals and organisations who will be involved in *HealthWatch* by building on the legacy of LINKs and other local systems for service user/ patient and public involvement

9. Southampton City Council will take the lead across the SHIP local authority area on how best to procure Independent NHS Complaints Advocacy Services (ICAS) when responsibility for this transfers to local authorities from the DH in 2012/13. This will also entail consideration of how local *HealthWatch* can add benefit to local adult safeguarding procedures.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

10. The Council's budget for supporting LINKs and preparing for *HealthWatch* during 2011/12 is £140,600. A further £50,000 is potentially available in the contingency reserve should this be required following legislation.

Property/Other

11. The work programmes for the SHIP *HealthWatch* Pathfinder will be further developed and refined at a stakeholder conference taking place in Portsmouth on 24th June 2011.
12. The timetable that needs to be followed by the City Council in establishing *HealthWatch* Southampton is broadly outlined in the Appendix. It is anticipated that the *HealthWatch* Southampton Transition Project will commence in September 2011 and run in two phases (preparatory and implementation) for a period of about 9 months.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

13. The new contract for providing host service to Southampton's LINK needs to be in place by 1st July 2011.

Other Legal Implications:

none

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

none

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KEY DECISION? No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	ALL
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Non-confidential appendices are in the Members' Rooms and can be accessed on-line

Appendices

1.	Draft Time Table for the Transition to <i>HealthWatch</i> Southampton
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Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	none
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Integrated Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) to be carried out.	No
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Other Background Documents

Integrated Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)

Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)

Appendix Draft Time Table for the Transition to *HealthWatch* Southampton

1. Preparatory Phase

week ending	Key Milestone/ Deliverable
24/06/11	Health & Social Care Bill resumes Parliamentary Passage
24/06/11	SHIP <i>HealthWatch</i> Pathfinder Project Stakeholder Event in Portsmouth
08/07/11	SHIP <i>HealthWatch</i> Pathfinder Project Team finalise work programme
09/09/11	City Council appoints local <i>HealthWatch</i> project manager
16/09/11	<i>HealthWatch</i> Southampton Sourcing PID/ Outline Business Case issued
23/09/11	Cabinet Member briefed on <i>HealthWatch</i> Southampton Sourcing PID
30/09/11	1 st Meeting of the SHIP <i>HealthWatch</i> Pathfinder Board
14/10/11	1 st Meeting of the <i>HealthWatch</i> Southampton Transition Team
21/10/11	SHIP Stakeholder Information Day for Parties interested in supplying <i>HealthWatch</i> services and formal Expressions of Interest (EOIs) invited
11/11/11	Deadline for receipt of completed EOI Pro Formas
18/11/11	2 nd Meeting of the SHIP <i>HealthWatch</i> Pathfinder Board
18/11/11	2 nd Meeting of the <i>HealthWatch</i> Southampton Transition Team
25/11/11	Paper on <i>HealthWatch</i> & Adult Safeguarding produced (with ADASS)
09/12/11	Paper on Commissioning ICAS in the SHIP Area produced (SCC-led)
16/12/11	DCLG announces LA Revenue Support Grant Settlement for 2012/13
23/12/11	Financial Assessment for funding <i>HealthWatch</i> Southampton completed
30/12/11	Draft Pre Qualification Questionnaires (PQQs) produced
09/01/12	Health & Social Care Bill receives Royal Assent
13/01/12	3 rd Meeting of the <i>HealthWatch</i> Southampton Transition Team
20/01/12	3 rd Meeting of the SHIP <i>HealthWatch</i> Pathfinder Board
27/01/12	Tender Documents for <i>HealthWatch</i> Southampton finalised in light of Sourcing Strategy/ Final Business Case agreed by Cabinet
03/02/12	<i>Healthwatch</i> Southampton PQQs issued to interested Parties
17/02/12	Evaluation of SHIP <i>HealthWatch</i> Pathfinder project completed
24/12/12	Agreement on Extension of LINK Host Contracted extended (if required)
05/03/12	4 th Meeting of the <i>HealthWatch</i> Southampton Transition Team
12/03/12	4 th (and final) Meeting of the SHIP <i>HealthWatch</i> Pathfinder Board
19/03/12	Shadow <i>HealthWatch</i> Southampton established

2. Implementation Phase

week ending	Key Milestone/ Deliverable
30/12/11	Draft Pre Qualification Questionnaires (PQQs) produced
09/01/12	Health & Social Care Bill receives Royal Assent
27/01/12	Tender Documents for <i>HealthWatch</i> Southampton finalised in light of Sourcing Strategy/ Final Business Case agreed by Cabinet
03/02/12	<i>Healthwatch</i> Southampton PQQs issued to interested Parties
05/03/12	PQQs returned
12/03/12	<i>HealthWatch</i> Southampton Tender Evaluation Team agreed
19/03/12	Advertisements for Invitations to Tender (ITT) placed
26/03/12	ITT Documentation and Bidders Packs issued
27/04/12	Deadline for Receipt of Tender Documents
25/05/12	Evaluation of Tenders completed by Panel
15/06/12	Tender(s) awarded to successful Bidder/ Consortium
30/06/12	Southampton Local Involvement Network ceases
01/07/12	<i>HealthWatch</i> Southampton is formally established by SCC