

TITLE	Health Consultations
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 29 May 2012
WARD	None Specific
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR	Heather Thwaites, Strategic Director of Development and Regeneration

OUTCOME

That the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee are informed of the current “live” health consultations.

RECOMMENDATION

To decide on which of the “live” Consultations the Committee would like to be consulted on and respond to prior to the deadline dates.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

This paper provides an overview of “live” consultations in relation to health policy as of 15 May 2012. Details provided on the “live” consultations have been taken directly from information provided by Wokingham Borough Council’s Partnership Development Team and from the Department of Health website.

- 1. Wokingham Borough Council public meeting on the new Local Healthwatch for Wokingham Borough on Thursday 21 June 2012, 5pm to 7.30pm, David Hicks Room, Shute End, Wokingham – see attached Appendix 1 for publicity flyer, booking form and short questionnaire.**

The HOSC are invited to note and to attend the forthcoming public meeting on the new Local Healthwatch for Wokingham on the 21st June 2012.

The aims of the public meeting are to publicise the new Local Healthwatch, to obtain the views and feedback from Members, local residents and organisations on the setting up of the Local Healthwatch. There will be a guest speaker at the meeting from the Wokingham Clinical Commissioning Group. The meeting is currently being widely publicised through Wokingham LINKs, the Wokingham Voluntary Sector Forum, and the Wokingham Clinical Commissioning. All elected members are being invited to attend the public meeting.

If HOSC members would like to attend the public meeting please complete the attached booking form and return to Salma Ahmed by **Friday 15 June 2012**.

If any HOSC members are unable to attend the meeting, please complete the attached short questionnaire and return it to Salma Ahmed by **Friday 15 June 2012** so that the Council can take their views into account when developing the new Local Healthwatch.

Department of Health ‘live’ consultations

For further information on consultations please refer to the Department of Health

website, see link below –

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/index.htm>

1. Reforming the Social Work Bursary

Launch date: 14 May 2012

Closing date: 27 July 2012

The Department of Health is currently seeking the views of students, social work employers, service users and carers, higher education institutes and other interested parties on reforming the social work bursary. At a time of financial pressures there is a need to ensure that funding for social work education delivers value for money. In order to ensure quality and achieving value for money the Department of Health is consulting on reforming the social work bursary. They are consulting on 5 options, which will provide support to social work students through their educational pathway.

Contact: Social Work Bursary Consultation 2N14
Tele: 0113 254 5803

swbursaryconsultation@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Address: Quarry House
Quarry Hill
Leeds
LS2 7UE

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/05/consultation-launched-on-social-work-bursary/>

2. Front of Pack Food Labelling Consultation

Launch date: 14 May 2012

Closing date: 6 August 2012

UK health ministers want to see all food manufacturers and retailers using the same system to show on the front of food packs how much fat, salt and sugar, and how many calories, is in their products. This would make it easier for consumers to compare the nutritional information provided on the food they buy. Providing nutrition information consistently on the front of food packs across a wide range of products is key to consumers' noticing and using this information to improve their diets and to help control calorie intakes.

The aims of this consultation are for the four UK Governments to:

- maintain and extend the use of front-of-pack labelling across the widest possible range of food and drink products; and
- achieve the greatest possible consistency in the content and presentation of front-of-pack nutrition labelling, in a form that is clearest and most useful to

consumers

Officials in all UK countries intend to share the received consultation responses, so that UK Ministers can consider them in their post consultation deliberations.

In England, people can contribute to the specific consultation questions by providing written comments to:

- By website: <http://consultations.dh.gov.uk>
- By email: fop.nutrientinformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk

By post: Front of Pack labelling consultation, Nutrition Labelling Team, 7th Floor, South Wing, Department of Health, Wellington House, 133-135 Waterloo Road, London, SE1 8UG

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/05/food-labelling-consultation-launched/>

3. Consultation on proposed changes to the Nursing and Midwifery Council (Constitution) (Amendment) Order

Launch date: 8 May 2012

Closing date: 31 July 2012

This Department of Health consultation seeks views on proposed changes to the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC). Following recommendations by the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence, the Department is proposing to change the legislation for the NMC to reduce the size of its governing council and to amend the length of time for which council members can hold office. This extends the maximum from six years to an aggregate of eight years over a period of 20 years and brings the NMC into line with other regulators.

Contact: Mike Lewis

Address: External Relations Directorate, Professional Standards 2N09

Quarry House

Quarry Hill

Leeds

LS2 7UE

Telephone 0113 254 6146

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/05/consultation-nmc-constitution/>

4. Language checks for doctors included in consultation on role of responsible officers

Launch date: 18 April 2012

Closing date: 25 July 2012

Proposals to ensure the language competence of doctors have been put forward by the Department of Health as part of the public consultation on the regulations governing the role of Responsible Officers.

Under the proposals, Responsible Officers would work with the General Medical Council to ensure doctors working in their organisation have all the right checks including making sure they understand NHS processes and medicines.

The consultation is aimed at ensuring that the Medical Profession (Responsible Officers) Regulations 2010 are appropriate for the new health and care structures and that patients continue to be protected through the evaluation of fitness to practise and monitoring of conduct and performance of doctors. The consultation also seeks views on where Responsible Officers, who currently work in primary care trusts and strategic health authorities, will work most effectively in the future.

Contact: Michael Wright

Address: Quality Strategy Branch
Room 423
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London
SE1 8UG

Telephone: 0207 972 1323

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/04/consultation-responsible-officers/>

5. Consultation on standardised packaging of tobacco products

Launch date: 16 April 2012

Closing date: 10 July 2012

This consultation seeks views on the options to reduce the promotional impact of tobacco packaging, including standardised (or "plain") packaging. The consultation is being run on a UK-wide basis by the Department of Health with the agreement of the Devolved Administrations.

Contact: Tobacco Packs Consultation

Address: Department of Health
7th Floor, Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London
SE1 8UG

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/04/tobacco-packaging-consultation/>

6. Healthy lives, Healthy People: Towards a workforce strategy for the public health system

Launch date: 27 March 2012

Closing date: 29 June 2012

This consultation seeks views on the new workforce strategy proposals and asks how public health specialists will be developed and supported in the new public health system and how public health capacity can be embedded in the wider system. This consultation is aimed at a wide audience, reflecting the Government's view that public health is everyone's business, and the findings will be used to inform a new strategy for this important group of staff. The consultation document 'Towards a workforce strategy for the public health system' covers the challenges and opportunities, wider workforces and local community issues for getting it right for the public health specialist workforce. It is endorsed by the Local Government Association, which is encouraging councils to take part in this consultation.

Contact: Alison Ross

Address: Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

Tele: 020 7210 5371

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/03/workforce-consultation/>

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

N/A

List of Background Papers

N/A

Contact Salma Ahmed

Service Partnership Development Team

Telephone No 0118 974 6037

Email salma.ahmed@wokingham.gov.uk

Date 15 May 2012

Version No. 1



**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

LOCAL HEALTHWATCH for WOKINGHAM BOROUGH

**Please join us for this public meeting on the new Local
Healthwatch**

**THURSDAY 21 JUNE 2012
5.00 pm to 7.30 pm**

(Refreshments available from 5pm to 5.30pm)

Venue

David Hicks Room, Shute End, Wokingham Borough Council

FIND OUT ABOUT LOCAL HEALTHWATCH

GIVE US YOUR VIEWS

Please reply to: (see form attached)

Salma Ahmed, Wokingham Borough Council,

PO Box 150, Shute End, Wokingham, Berkshire RG40 1WQ

Tel: (0118) 974 6037; email: salma.ahmed@wokingham.gov.uk; fax: (0118) 979 0877

PLACES LIMITED

PLEASE RESPOND BY FRIDAY 15 June 2012

If you are unable to attend the meeting please can you complete the attached short questionnaire

REPLY FORM

I/We would like to attend the Local Healthwatch Public Meeting

On Thursday 21 June 2012, 5.00pm to 7.30pm

Name(s)

Name of organisation:.....

Address.....

Telephone: Email:

Please note we will be serving refreshments at the event between 5pm and 5.30pm.

Do you have any special dietary requirements? If yes, please indicate below:

.....
.....

PLEASE REPLY TO:

Salma Ahmed, Wokingham Borough Council,
PO Box 150, Shute End, Wokingham, Berkshire RG40 1WQ
Tel: (0118) 974 6037; email: salma.ahmed@wokingham.gov.uk; fax: (0118) 979 0877

DEADLINE: FRIDAY 15 June 2012

Local Healthwatch Public Meeting

Dear Colleague,

If you are unable to attend the local healthwatch public meeting we would like you to complete the short questionnaire below so that we can take your views into account. Please note that we will also be asking delegates attending the meeting to answer these questions.

Short questionnaire on the Local Healthwatch
Q1: What kind of organisation will the local Healthwatch be? Your views:
Q2: How can we ensure independence of the new local Healthwatch? Your views:
Q3: How should local Healthwatch gather the views of local patients and all the other interest groups? Your views:
Q4: How will we ensure that it will be fully representative of the local community? Your views:

Q5: What can Healthwatch do to ensure it has a strong voice in the Health and Wellbeing Board and with the Clinical Commissioning Group?

Your views:

Thank you for completing the questionnaire.