

NHS SCRUTINY

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 To consider a Member nomination to attend a meeting on 7 or 8 February to discuss arrangements for scrutiny of the NHS.

2 SCRUTINY FUNCTION

- 2.1 The Health and Social Care Act 2001 provides powers for local authorities which carry out social services functions to scrutinise the NHS. This will be done through Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- 2.2 Detailed guidance and regulations are still to be issued, but Essex County Council has invited district authorities to work with them to co-ordinate demands on local NHS organisations, and to ensure co-ordination on issues and services that cross local authority boundaries.
- 2.3 Within the County Council, Lord Hanningfield has asked County Councillor Roger Dyson, who has a background as a Professor of Health Economics, to take the lead on developing the Council's arrangements for scrutinising the NHS. Councillor Dyson has requested an initial meeting with representatives from District and Borough Councils to discuss what the objectives of NHS scrutiny should be, where local authorities can add value and how the scrutiny responsibility can be incorporated into political structures.
- 2.4 At the time of writing this report, the most likely meeting dates are 7 or 8 February, but final arrangement details will be available for the Committee meeting.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

To nominate a Member to attend the NHS Scrutiny meeting with Essex County Council, and that travel and subsistence allowances be paid if appropriate. (HHHCC)

G Woolhouse

Head of Housing Health & Community Care

Background Papers:

Letter from Essex County Council 14 December 2001.

For further information please contact Graham Woolhouse

Tel:- 01702 546366 ext 3300

E-Mail:- graham.woolhouse@rochford.gov.uk