

## Committee: Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2014**

Agenda item:

Wards: ALL

**Subject: Strategies for improving GP Services in Merton – Healthwatch Merton.**

Lead officer: Dave Curtis, Healthwatch Merton, Manager.

Lead member: Councillor Peter McCabe, Chair of the Healthier Communities and Older People overview and scrutiny panel.

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### Recommendations:

- A. That the Panel comment on the report by Healthwatch particularly the section on Access to GP Services which will be considered alongside a report from NHS England on GP Access and waiting times.
  - B.
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### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to update the panel on recent Healthwatch Merton research on GP Services in Merton.

### **2 DETAILS**

- 2.1. At the last meeting of the health scrutiny panel, members agreed to prioritise items for the work programme for 2014-15. One area that was highlighted as a priority was access to GP surgeries as there was some concern that people are waiting a considerable length of time for an appointment.
- 2.2. Healthwatch Merton has been invited to share their findings on this area

### **3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

The Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel can select topics for scrutiny review and for other scrutiny work as it sees fit, taking into account views and suggestions from officers, partner organisations and the public.

Cabinet is constitutionally required to receive, consider and respond to scrutiny recommendations within two months of receiving them at a meeting.

- 3.1. Cabinet is not, however, required to agree and implement recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny. Cabinet could agree to implement some, or none, of the recommendations made in the scrutiny review final report.

### **4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

- 4.1. The Panel will be consulted at the meeting

### **5 TIMETABLE**

5.1. The Panel will consider important items as they arise as part of their work programme for 2014/15

## **6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1. None relating to this covering report

## **7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

7.1. None relating to this covering report. Scrutiny work involves consideration of the legal and statutory implications of the topic being scrutinised.

## **8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

8.1. It is a fundamental aim of the scrutiny process to ensure that there is full and equal access to the democratic process through public involvement and engaging with local partners in scrutiny reviews. Furthermore, the outcomes of reviews are intended to benefit all sections of the local community.

## **9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

9.1. None relating to this covering report. Scrutiny work involves consideration of the crime and disorder implications of the topic being scrutinised.

## **10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

10.1. None relating to this covering report

## **11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT**

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## **12 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

12.1.