

Part A

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: Thursday, 18 June 2020

Report author: Democratic Services Officer

Title: Health Services for the Deaf Task Group - final report

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report provides Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the final report and recommendations of the Health Services for the Deaf Task Group. The full report is attached as Appendix 1.
- 1.2 This report was scheduled to be considered at the meeting on 19 March 2020. This meeting was cancelled due to the onset of the coronavirus crisis.
- 1.3 Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to review the report prior to being forwarded to Hertfordshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee.

2.0 Risks

- 2.1 No direct risks to the council have been identified as a result of the task group's recommendations.

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 that the final report and recommendations of the Health Services for the Deaf Task Group be agreed and forwarded to Hertfordshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee.

Further information:

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Report approved by: Group Head of Democracy and Governance

4.0 Detailed proposal

- 4.1 At its meeting on 28 November 2019, a scrutiny proposal was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee by Councillor Karen Collett. The proposal

followed her meeting with Watford Deaf Club where a number of issues were raised in relation to the accessibility of health services for those who are profoundly deaf or with severe hearing loss.

- 4.2 At that meeting, the membership of the task group was agreed. The following councillors were appointed:

Councillor Glen Saffery	Chair, Councillor for Woodside Ward
Councillor Steve Bolton	Councillor for Central Ward
Councillor Aga Dychton	Councillor for Central Ward
Councillor Amanda Grimston	Councillor for Meriden Ward
Councillor Richard Wenham	Councillor for Woodside Ward

- 4.3 The task group met on two occasions. At the first meeting, representatives of Watford Deaf Club attended to share their experiences of accessing health services. Following this, an evidence day was held with representatives of local health services.
- 4.4 In recognition that Watford Borough Council is not the local health authority, it is suggested that the task group's report be forwarded to Hertfordshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee with a recommendation that the issue be taken up. Overview and Scrutiny Committee is therefore asked to review the final report and recommend it for further consideration.

5.0 **Implications**

5.1 **Financial**

- 5.1.1 The Shared Director of Finance comments that there are no financial implications in this report.

5.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

- 5.2.1 The Group Head of Democracy and Governance comments that there are no legal implications in this report.

5.3 **Equalities, Human Rights and Data Protection**

- 5.3.1 Those who are profoundly deaf and use British Sign Language are likely to be considered to have a disability under the Equality Act 2010. The recommendations in this report are designed to help ensure that residents who are deaf are able to access health services on the same basis as those without hearing loss.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Health Services for the Deaf Task Group report

Background papers

There are no specific background papers for this report. All background information used during the task group's work is referenced in the final report.