

County and Unitary Councils' Officer Overview and Scrutiny Network Minutes

MEETING DATE & TIME	COUNTY & UNITARY COUNCILS' OFFICER OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY NETWORK FRIDAY 11 MARCH 2022, 11.00AM – 1.10PM
VENUE	VIRTUAL (MICROSOFT TEAMS)
PRESENT	John Cade (Chairman), Paul Thistlewood (Secretary), Megan Tuckwell (Minutes) (Isle of Wight), Rachel Allan (West Sussex), Chris Angus (Northumberland), Caroline Breheny (Middlesbrough), Helen Barr (Stoke-on-Trent), Simon Bennett (Wiltshire), Deborah Breedon (Staffordshire), Andy Carswell (Warwickshire), Karen Christon (Newcastle), John Cole (Warwickshire), Stephen Courtney, Ben Cullimore (Surrey), George Dare (Dorset), Bob Dawson (Isles of Scilly), Katie Dover (Buckinghamshire), Kathy Eastwood (South Gloucestershire), Simon Evans (Lincolnshire), Charlie Fisher (Devon), Nikki Gough, Gary Halsall (Lancashire), Jo Heather (Cornwall), Gennie Holmes (Coventry), Johanna Holmes (Bristol), Alex Holgate (Hull), Theresa Harden (Suffolk), Tom Hudson (Oxford), Ross Jago, Martin Jenks (East Sussex), Leanne Martin (Cornwall), Alex Melia, Deborah Moseley (Warwickshire), Maureen Orr (Norfolk), Earl Piggott-Smith (Wolverhampton), Kate Parker (Cambridgeshire), Mark Pirnie (Southampton), Peter Randall (Norfolk), Natalie Rotherham (Hertfordshire), Bert Siong (Luton), Antony Spouse (Hull), Paul Spencer (Warwickshire), David Stephens (Cumbria), Helen Taber-French (Suffolk), Steven Tautz (Southend), Lucy Tricker (Thurrock), Sam Yarnall
GUESTS	Andy Fry, Ed Hammond, Megan Ingle, Annette Aiken, (Centre for Governance and Scrutiny), Phillipa Baker, Eleanor Davies, Lizzi Paul, (NHS Legislation Programme Team, Department for Health and Social Care), Alyson Morley (LGA), Sharon Senior (North West Employers) Cllrs Jessica Fleming (Suffolk), Jeff Henry (Essex), Veronica Jones (Northumberland), Jane Hanna (Oxfordshire), Avril Mumford (Isles of Scilly), Bernie Muir (Surrey), John Nicholson (Isle of Wight), Jeremy Pert (Staffordshire), Anna Pedersen (Luton), Gill Taylor (Dorset), Paul Williams (Warwickshire), David Wildey (Medway)

1. INTRODUCTION BY THE CHAIRMAN AND HOUSEKEEPING

The chairman welcomed all parties and the secretary to the network gave an outline of the proceedings for the virtual session.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2021 were noted.

3. UPDATE FROM THE CFGS

Andy Fry (Centre for Governance and Scrutiny) delivered a presentation on the recent developments in the CfGS (attached).

4. HEALTH AND CARE BILL

Ed Hammond introduced the item and provided an update on the latest position with regards to the Health and Care Bill. The views of the LGA were shared. Representatives of the Department for Health and Social Care were in attendance to deliver a presentation on the latest progress, which included an overview of the Bill, the principles of health scrutiny, and the scope of the Principles document (attached). A small number of councillors had been invited to attend the meeting to enable their views to be shared with the DoHSC representatives.

Discussion took place regarding the issues being encountered by local authorities in the development of integrated care partnerships, and questions were raised regarding the five principles in the document, the tone and language included, and any local conversations about the role of HOSC post-implementation of the bill. It was agreed that any other comments would be fed back to the DHSC via the CfGS.

5. WORKING ARRANGEMENTS WITH OTHER SCRUTINY NETWORKS

It was reminded that at the last meeting there was a discussion on how virtual meetings had assisted with working arrangements for network meetings, and whether there was an opportunity to form links with these to co-ordinate activities and share information. It was advised that the CfGS would continue to use their resources to support the several existing regional networks (at both an officer and member level), in addition to separate health scrutiny networks. It was confirmed that the CfGS would shortly be reaching out to various networks to see how this could be progressed.

6. POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

The thoughts and experiences of members of the network were sought with regards to the approach to policy development and review to ensure effective service delivery, and whether various authorities had a list of all its key policies and strategies.

7. ASK THE NETWORK

The network were given the opportunity to raise any matters and seek the thoughts of other network members to help overcome issues they may be experiencing.

8. FUTURE MEETINGS

The proposed dates for future meetings were 24 June, 9 September and 2 December 2022. It was advised that the logistics of making the September meeting hybrid were being looked into.

The meeting closed at 1.10pm.