

## **Cheltenham Borough Council**

### **Social & Community O&S Committee**

**29<sup>th</sup> March 2004**

#### **County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Feedback**

##### **Report of Councillor Zoe Forbes**

1. As this council's representative on the County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) since June 2003, I have participated in debates which during the early months revolved around methods of working, but more recently the OSC has agreed its workplan for the next two years (attached as appendix A).
2. The Committee is administered by the County Council, and its membership is made up of seven County Councillors and one representative from each of the six districts. Meetings are held on a two monthly basis and individual sub groups have been established to work on individual items from the work programme. The sub group I am in has been evaluating Gloucestershire Hospitals Trust's consultation on its application for Foundation Trust status.
3. A particular difficulty for the OSC is the need for additional officer support. Unfortunately, most of the other districts represented on the OSC find themselves in exactly the same situation as Cheltenham Borough Council, in that they struggle adequately to support their own overview and scrutiny functions. The County Council had requested that the districts each provide a certain amount to support the OSC, but none was able to do so. This issue remains a particular bone of contention for the County Council and I anticipate further requests for support from the District Councils.
4. At our November meeting, the OSC agreed that efforts should be made to promote the OSC's agenda within the districts, and to set up a system through which the OSC should consult with the public at district level. Each district member was tasked with making an effort to develop this in each of their districts. For this reason, and because health related issues are part of the remit of the Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee, I felt it was important to draw the workplan to the Committee's attention.

I will be happy to answer any questions from fellow members, and to take back any comments either on the workplan generally or on any specific item.

5. There are no financial, legal, HR, social justice or environmental implications for the council arising from this report.

**Background papers**

**Report Author**

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**Accountability**

County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee