

Partnership Working – the role of local political scrutiny in driving forward the NHS Health Check Programme in Wiltshire

Maddern, Steve. *Public Health Consultant, Wiltshire Council*.

Introduction

Wiltshire Council is mandated to ensure that the NHS Health Check Programme (NHSCHP) is commissioned locally. Programme delivery has been regularly reviewed by Wiltshire Council's Health Select Committee (HSC) which has led to programme development and improvements.

Aim

To provide information on the local commission and delivery of the NHSCHP to the Health Select Committee for scrutiny inline with the Councils Constitution in a bid to ensure political buy-in into the programme and also support local programme development.

Methodology

Between 2014-2019 the HSC have shown proactive interest in the NHSCHP, leading to range of evaluations to take place to determine programme value at a local level, to understand why people do and don't attend for their NHSCHP and to understand the health outcomes for those that do and do not attend for their NHSCHP.

An ongoing programme of work has taken place as a result of HSC scrutiny which resulted in a one-off rapid scrutiny exercise which concluded with a range of recommendations for the programme.

Results

As a result of the rapid scrutiny, the HSC endorsed the following recommendations: collecting better data from providers; revise service specifications; provide ongoing quality training; review patient outcomes for attenders and non-attenders; to explore feasibility of programme incentives (for patients); to expand service access; to use evaluation data in marketing activities and to promote the programme benefits to businesses.

Conclusions

Council Scrutiny of the NHSCHP has been a challenging but positive process for driving forward the NHSCHP in Wiltshire. The ongoing scrutiny process has created political awareness of the importance of the programme and has set a forward work programme of service development as a result.

Contact details

Steve Maddern, steve.maddern@wiltshire.gov.uk or Jane Vowles (public health specialist) jane.vowle@wiltshire.gov.uk