

## **Divisions Affected – All**

# **OXFORDSHIRE JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**9 JUNE 2022**

## **Annual Report 2021/22**

### **Report by Director of Law And Governance**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. **The Committee is RECOMMENDED to: -**
  - a) Note the requirement for the Committee to produce an annual report.
  - b) Agree that the draft report will be signed off by the Committee electronically.

#### **Executive Summary**

2. The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is under a constitutional duty to prepare an annual report. This report is overdue. The paper seeks to obtain agreement from the Committee on practical steps to allow its publication as quickly as possible.

#### **Background**

3. Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, Regulation 28(1) of the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 the Council has a duty to “review and scrutinise any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health services in its area”.
4. As part of this overarching duty it has a duty, enshrined in the Council’s Constitution, to report on its activity over the preceding year in the form of an annual report.
5. The Constitution specifies that this report is to be produced in April each year. With the handover between Scrutiny Officers this for the year 2021/22 this has not happened, meaning that the report is currently overdue.

6. The Council has a Constitutional requirement towards its joint-member colleagues, health partners and the public to report on the activity of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It is important, therefore, that a report is published as soon as possible. If the Committee were to wait until its next meeting to sign off a draft, it would mean a delay until late September.. Instead, it is proposed that the Committee agree to sign off the report electronically outside the meeting, and that publication of the annual report be made in July to Council and made available to partners thereafter

## **Corporate Priorities**

7. Improving health and wellbeing of residents and reducing health inequalities are stated ambitions within the Council's Strategic Plan agreed in February 2022.

## **Financial Implications**

8. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Comments checked by: Lorna Baxter

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## **Legal Implications**

9. Part 2, Article 8, s. 23 of the Council's constitution states that:

The Committee shall produce in April each year a report for the Appointing Authorities on its activities during the preceding year. That report shall also be published to health bodies and the public.

The Committee is currently in breach of this requirement and should take steps to comply as soon as possible.

Comments checked by: Anita Bradley

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## **Staff Implications**

10. None arising from this report.

## **Equality & Inclusion Implications**

11. None arising from this report.

## **Sustainability Implications**

12. None arising from this report.

## **Risk Management**

13. If Members do not agree to sign off the report electronically, the draft will have to be considered at the next HOSC meeting, meaning further delay to its publication.

## **Consultations**

14. None arising from this report.

Anita Bradley  
Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer

Annex: None

Background papers: None

Other Documents: None

Contact Officer: Tom Hudson, Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer

May 2022