

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL - REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Overview and Scrutiny Management Board
2.	Date:	13th April, 2012
3.	Title:	Health Inequalities Scrutiny Review – BMI>50
4.	Directorate:	Resources

5. Summary

Rotherham has been involved in a programme of work with the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) to look at the way in which scrutiny can be used to help tackle health inequalities at a local level.

Being part of this project involved undertaking a scrutiny review looking at an issue in relation to health inequalities; Rotherham chose to look at the quality of life and services provided for people with a BMI over 50.

The full report and recommendations are presented to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for consideration and approval.

6. Recommendations

That OSMB:

- **Notes the report; including the findings of the review as well as the evaluation of the review methodology used**
- **Agrees for the report and recommendations to be presented to Cabinet for comment and approval**

7. Proposals and details

The CfPS recognised the potential of scrutiny in better understanding local health concerns and set out to demonstrate the active and vital role that it can have in helping councils and their partners narrow the gaps and improve the health of local people through a programme of work looking at doing scrutiny reviews.

Following an initial phase of the programme, a document called 'Peeling the Onion' was published, which explores scrutiny as an important and effective public health tool and presents a practical toolkit for development areas to use and test out in the second phase of the programme. Six local authority areas were involved in the second phase, including Rotherham.

A review group made up of members and co-optees from the Health Select Commission agreed to undertake their review to look at people with a BMI over 50. The overarching aims of the review were agreed as the following:

- To improve the lives of people with a BMI over 50, ensuring they have dignity and respect and effective, equitable access to services
- To make recommendations for multi-agency consistency in relation to how people with a BMI over 50 and considered housebound are supported and cared for

Full details of the activity which took place, the findings and recommendations are included in the attached report. Members of OSMB are asked to consider the findings presented in the report and approve the recommendations prior to it going to Cabinet.

OSMB are also asked to note the reflection and learning gained from being part of this project and the scrutiny review methodology tested, and consider potential for using elements of this model when undertaking future reviews.

8. Finance

There may be financial implications associated with the some of recommendations, which it is proposed, will need to be considered by the liaison group identified under recommendation one of the review.

9 Risks and Uncertainties

As identified by the review findings, services in relation to people with a BMI >50 are not always as fully coordinated as they could be and there are issues with the sharing of data and information. If some of these issues could be addressed through simple measures, there could be a positive outcome and improved quality of life for people out in the community, as well as potential efficiency savings for organisations.

10 Background Papers and Consultation

Peeling the Onion – Learning, tips and tools from the Health Inequalities Scrutiny Programme (2011):

<http://www.cfps.org.uk/what-we-do/tackling-health-inequalities/>

[http://www.cfps.org.uk/userfiles/file/CfPSPeelingonionfin%5B1%5D\(1\).pdf](http://www.cfps.org.uk/userfiles/file/CfPSPeelingonionfin%5B1%5D(1).pdf)

Scrutiny Review of Health Inequalities: people with a BMI>50 – report of the Health Select Commission (attached)

11 Contact

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