

Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission 21 st September 2022 DHSC guidance on Health Overview and Scrutiny Principles – FOR NOTING ONLY	Item No 8
--	---------------------

OUTLINE

In advance of the statutory guidance on the Secretary of State's new powers in relation to service reconfigurations, Department of Health and Social Care has published a document setting out the expectations of the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) on how integrated care boards (ICBs), integrated care partnerships (ICPs) and local authority health overview and scrutiny committee (HOSC) arrangements will work together to ensure that new statutory system-level bodies are locally accountable to their communities.

The guidance is attached, and a link is here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-overview-and-scrutiny-committee-principles/health-overview-and-scrutiny-committee-principles>

Under the guidance as set out below local authorities will retain the power to:

- review and scrutinise matters relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health service in the area. This may well include scrutinising the finances of local health services
- require information to be provided by certain NHS bodies about the planning, provision and operation of health services that is reasonably needed to carry out health scrutiny
- require employees, including non-executive directors of certain NHS bodies, to attend before them to answer questions
- make reports and recommendations to certain NHS bodies and expect a response within 28 days
- set up joint health scrutiny and overview committees with other local authorities and delegate health scrutiny functions to an overview and scrutiny committee of another local authority

- have a mechanism in place to respond to consultations by relevant NHS bodies and relevant health service providers on substantial reconfiguration proposals
- have a mechanism in place to deal with referrals made by local Healthwatch organisations or local Healthwatch contractors
- report disputed reconfiguration proposals to the Secretary of State until the new reconfiguration provisions take effect

Health and wellbeing boards will retain the power to:

- provide assessments of the current and future health and care needs of the local population
- develop joint strategic needs assessments
- develop joint local health and wellbeing strategies at a place level

ACTION

The Commission is requested to NOTE the Guidance document.