

Appendix 1

21 February 2003

Dear Colleague

CONSULTATION ON A PROPOSAL FOR HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS IN EAST SUSSEX

You will be aware that, from 1 January 2003, East Sussex County Council, as the social services authority for the area, has had the power (under the Health and Social Care Act 2001) to review and scrutinise matters relating to health services in East Sussex. This letter is part of the consultations we are undertaking on the proposed way in which we might carry out the Health Overview and Scrutiny function.

Between November 2002 and February 2003, a joint officer group representing all five districts and boroughs and the County Council have been working on this new function. Discussions have also been held with a number of health organisations, committees and agencies in East Sussex. These have been helpful in formulating a proposal for the constitution and terms of reference of a Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The East Sussex Cabinet will be considering the proposal and the outcome of this consultation exercise at its meeting on 25 March 2003. I should be grateful, therefore, if you would let me know, by 12 March 2003, if your organisation has any comments on the proposal, the constitution and the terms of reference. You may wish to reply by e-mail or fax to save time.

I attach:

• The proposal setting out the arrangements

- Draft terms of reference for the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

In addition to finalising the proposed constitution and terms of reference there will be work to be done in preparing a procedure for overview and scrutiny, as required by the Regulations. A proposed protocol will be drafted and be the subject of consultation if the proposed Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee is established.

We have made contact with most of the organisations to whom this letter has been sent, but in replying it would be helpful if you could confirm the name of the contact who should be consulted in respect of the draft protocol. We are keen that all participants will be party to the protocol and thereby feel confident that any scrutiny work in which they are asked to participate will be conducted in the spirit of partnership.

If you would like to discuss any issue about this consultation exercise, please contact me on (01273) 481327. My e-mail is roger.howarth@eastsussexcc.gov.uk <<mailto:roger.howarth@eastsussexcc.gov.uk>>. Fax number: 01273 481485

Yours sincerely

Roger B Howarth
Scrutiny & Best Value Co-ordinator

East Sussex County Council