

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

***Name of Committee***                      **Health Overview And Scrutiny Committee**

***Date of Committee***                      **24 January 2007**

***Report Title***                              **A Strategic Framework for Better Health  
for the West Midlands**

***Summary***                                      The Committee to consider a letter from Cynthia  
Bower, Chief Executive of the West Midlands  
Strategic Health Authority, dated the 14th December  
2006. A copy of the letter is attached.

***For further information  
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Partner and Stakeholder Organisations in the West Midlands

Our Ref: CB/JC/JMT/06121401

14<sup>th</sup> December 2006

Dear Colleague

### **A Strategic Framework for Better Health for the West Midlands**

NHS West Midlands is committed to developing a Strategic Framework for health and health services in the West Midlands. We intend this Framework to encapsulate the overall direction of travel for health services that we will be seeking to achieve working with our NHS system and partners. It will also set out the criteria and tests that we will be applying as manager of the West Midlands NHS system. This will apply to such matters as the sign off process for Primary Care Trusts' Local Delivery Plans; proposals to change significantly the way services are provided; the approval of large scale business cases; the use of funding to develop the workforce; management of the way money and patients move between organisations; and the way patients are offered choice. The West Midlands Strategic Health Authority see the Strategic Framework as a combination of determining the vision for health in the region and setting out an approach to achieve this vision.

For the Strategy to succeed we are clear that it needs to be directly rooted in a deep analysis of the specific issues of relevance to the West Midlands, including the views of patient and public. Clearly we will be working closely with a number of regional partners on the related publication by the Regional Assembly of a 'Regional Health and Well Being Strategy'. The two strategies will aim to be mutually reinforcing and will be developed to consistent timescales. In addition there are a range of important health service issues which need to be considered in our Strategic Framework. We want to focus on a small number of key areas where we can make a significant difference. We therefore aim to produce a "core manifesto" but intend to timetable a number of publications which can follow to flesh out greater detail in some key areas. The Strategic Framework will be used as the basis against which we test our actions from here on in.

Chairman: Elisabeth Buggins  
Chief Executive: Cynthia Bower

**West Midlands Strategic Health Authority**

Given that we want a tight and focussed Strategic Framework this will not be a wide ranging and comprehensive description of all service issues. Therefore an important part of seeking your views at this stage is to prioritise. The key themes that we have drawn from the legacies of the three Strategic Health Authorities prior to the new SHA forming in July of this year and the current and emerging issues across our patch are as follows:-

- Evidence based actions to reduce Health Inequalities
- Driving up quality and choice in primary care
- Coordinated action to promote Race Equality in employment practice and service provision
- Reducing infant and perinatal mortality and promoting a Healthy Start to Life
- Improving the health of people with long term conditions through systematic management
- Shaping services and care to patients needs and empowering patient choices
- Having a strategic approach to the overall pattern of investment including a quantified shift towards community based services and a strategy for primary and community care infrastructure to support that
- Ensuring choice in geographically isolated areas
- Addressing key clinical viability issues and service configuration
- Regeneration and the development of integrated service models through community infrastructure investment
- End of life care – delivering the services that people actually want

At this early stage I would value your comments both on the initial list of themes set out above as well as other areas that you feel are of sufficient priority to include within the “core manifesto” of the Strategic Framework.

Yours sincerely



Cynthia Bower  
**Chief Executive**

cc: Management Team

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Chief Executive: Cynthia Bower