

**CARE QUALITY COMMISSION
(Report by the Head of Democratic and Central Services)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January 2009, the former Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery) endorsed for submission to the Care Quality Commission a response to their consultation on their draft Enforcement Policy. At the time, Members of the Panel requested that a representative of the Commission should be invited to a future Panel meeting to enable Members to understand better the Commission's role and how it fits into the wider health service framework.
- 1.2 A review of the Council's democratic structure which came into force in May 2009, resulted in this item being transferred over to the work programme for the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being). Councillors Mrs K E Cooper, S J Criswell, J E Garner, Mrs P A Jordan, J M Sadler and P G Mitchell, were Members of the former Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery) when the original discussions on this matter took place.

2. CARE QUALITY COMMISSION

- 2.1 Since its establishment in April 2009, invitations have been extended to the Commission's regional office in Cambridge to attend a Panel meeting. Unfortunately, the Commission has declined the Panel's invitation and has drawn attention to their website (<http://www.cqc.org.uk>), where there is a vast range of information available.
- 2.2 Details of an event hosted by the Commission, which was held on 1st July 2009 in Cambridge, had been circulated to Panel Members. Unfortunately, representatives from the Panel were unable to attend the event due to prior commitments.
- 2.3 Whilst it is disappointing that the Care Quality Commission are unable to address the Panel at its meeting, it has recently been reported in the Local Government Chronicle that the Commission has been in talks with the Department of Health about plans to suspend a range of its activities, such as hygiene inspections, in order to deal with an increase in its workload as a result of the flu pandemic. In the circumstances it is probably not unreasonable that the Council's invitation has been declined. As a substitute a guide to the Commission is attached at **Appendix A**.
- 2.4 After consultation with the Chairman, it has been agreed that a letter should be sent to the Commission asking them to respond to a number of issues which were raised by the Panel at the time it considered the Commission's Enforcement Policy. A draft letter is attached as at **Appendix B**.

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 The Panel is

RECOMMENDED

to consider and comment on the contents of the letter in Appendix B for submission to the Care Quality Commission.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Minutes and Reports of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery) held on 2nd December 2008 and 6th January 2009.

Progress Reports of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) dated 2nd June and 7th July 2009

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