

## About policy reviews

The objective of a policy review is to examine how the council currently tackles an issue or area of work, and to make recommendations for improvement where appropriate. The output of a policy review is always a report to Cabinet. Typical questions for this type of review are:

- Is this issue or area of work being tackled as effectively as possible?
- If not, what should the council be doing differently?

The review needs to be tightly focused on a single issue or area of work, with a finite and specific set of questions to be addressed. A policy review can also examine how the council's *partners* tackle an issue, either with or without the council. However, before instigating a policy review of a partner's activities, the committee should be clear that it has sufficient powers or influence to make recommendations for improvements – if it does not, then the topic should be treated as an information item.

Part 1: Business Case	
<b>Subject:</b>	<b><i>Mental health provision</i></b>
<b>Proposed by:</b>	Policy Overview Committee
<b>Length:</b>	Expected to take three months from start to finish.
<b>Objective</b>	
To examine the impact of changes to the health service on mental health provision in Swale in regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Primary Mental Health; and</li> <li>(b) Acute and Secondary Mental Health Care.</li> </ul>	
<b>Justification</b>	
With responsibility for the commissioning of health services moving from Primary Care Trusts to Clinical Commissioning Groups, and public health moving from the NHS to local authorities, the Committee want to seek reassurance that some of the most vulnerable members of the community are continuing to receive the support and care they need.	
<b>Evidence and information to be gathered</b>	
(a) Primary Mental Health: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ask the Swale and Canterbury &amp; Coastal Clinical Commissioning Groups how they intend to commission services;</li> <li>• Details of budgets and other resources;</li> <li>• The level of care for those with drug related mental health problems;</li> <li>• The balance of services between the health sector and Kent County Council;</li> <li>• Getting people with mental health care issues into employment.</li> </ul>	

(b) Acute and Secondary Mental Health Care:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How are services commissioned;</li> <li>• Who are the providers;</li> <li>• What are the waiting times for treatment;</li> <li>• How is the provision of hospital care delivered.</li> </ul>			
<b>Sources of information and evidence</b>			
<b>Individual or organisation</b>	<b>Committee session</b>	<b>Task and finish panel, site visit, correspondence, or other method</b>	<b>To be decided</b>
Swale BC Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Health		*	
Swale BC Head of Housing Services		*	
Swale and Canterbury and Coastal Clinical Commissioning Groups	*		
Kent County Council			*
Acute care providers	*		
Mental health academics	*		
Service users or representative body?	*		
<b>Organisation(s) to be reviewed</b>	If partners' activities are to be reviewed, what powers or influence does the committee have?		
	SBC only.		
	Partner organisation only.	[This is likely to be by reference to legal powers, but could be based on personal relationships or other sources of influence.]	
<b>X</b>	SBC working in partnership.		
<b>Timing constraints</b>	Aim to complete the review by the end of the 2013/14 Civic Year.		

<b>Part 2: Review Plan</b>	
<b>Review team</b>	
Lead review member:	Councillor Roger Truelove
Other review members:	Councillors Booth and Bowen and Christine White (Swale CVS co-optee)
O&S support officer:	Bob Pullen, Policy and Support Officer

SBC service liaison officer:	Amber Christou, Head of Housing Services
<b>Key dates</b>	
Date to begin evidence gathering:	12 February 2014
Date(s) of committee sessions (if any):	19 March and 23 April 2014
Date for draft report to be presented to committee:	To be confirmed
<b>Note:</b> Dates of committee session(s) and for the report to be presented to committee must be added to the committee forward plan.	