

**REPORT TO:** Health and Social Care Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 24<sup>th</sup> June 2025

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Executive Director - Adults

**PORTFOLIO:** Adult Social Care

**SUBJECT:** HPPB Scrutiny Review Topic Brief 2025/26

**WARD(S):** Borough-wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To present the Topic Brief for the 2025/26 Health Policy & Performance Board (HPPB) Scrutiny Review.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

- (1) The report be noted; and**
- (2) The Board approves the Topic Brief.**

**3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 Annually, as part of the HPPB remit, there is a duty on Members to scrutinise a specific area of focus within health and social care and make recommendations to Executive Board.

3.2 At the February 2025 HPPB meeting it was agreed that the following topic would be the focus of the 2025/26 Scrutiny Review:

***Mental Health Support*** – looking at how existing provision is meeting current demand and responding to predicted demand, and equality of access to services for marginalised or minority groups, covering both Adults and Children and Young People services.

3.3 The Topic Brief attached at **Appendix 1** sets out the remit and areas of focus that will be considered as part of the Scrutiny Review. The predominant focus will be on mental health support services delivered by Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust for adults and children and young people.

3.4 Members of the scrutiny topic group will be nominated by the Chair of the HPPB at the June 2025 HPPB meeting, with the first meeting of the group taking place in July 2025.

3.5 Prior to the first meeting, Members will be issued with a background paper to provide context to the topic area.

- 3.6 Meetings will take place monthly and provide opportunity for Members to be presented with information relating to the areas covered in the Topic Brief and scrutinise service delivery, emerging issues and opportunities in order to develop a set of recommendations for presentation at the February 2026 HPPB meeting. These recommendations, once approved by HPPB, will be presented to Executive Board.

#### 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Any policy implications arising from the recommendations of the Scrutiny Topic Group will be presented to HPPB and Executive Board and considered in line with existing process.

#### 5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Any financial implications arising from the recommendations of the Scrutiny Topic Group will be presented to HPPB and Executive Board and considered in line with existing process.

#### 6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence**

Please see Topic Brief attached.

6.2 **Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy**

None.

6.3 **Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need**

None.

6.4 **Working Towards a Greener Future**

None.

6.5 **Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community**

None.

#### 7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

- 7.1 No specific risks identified.

#### 8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required for this report.

#### 9.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 None identified.

10.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF  
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

- 10.1 Health Policy and Performance Board Scrutiny Report February 2025, in which reference to the proposed 2025/26 Scrutiny Topic Brief was made.