The Director of Public Health (Harrow PCT) has traditionally fulfilled the role of Advisor to the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-committee.

As the Advisor to the Health and Social Care Committee, it is the Director of Public Health’s responsibility to:
• attend, and participate in, the formal meetings of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-committee
• advise committee members about Public Health matters in the borough in order to assist members to carry out their Terms of Reference (outlined below).

The following areas fall within Public Health:
• Health needs assessment
• Health policy and strategy
• Health promotion and health protection
• Quality improvement of health services including evidence based healthcare
• Developing health programmes and services to reduce health inequalities
• Working with partners and communities to improve health

It is not the role of the Advisor to advise the committee on matters unrelated to public health. However, the committee requests that the Advisor refer members to other experts where possible so that they may obtain information on areas outside of the advisor’s area of expertise.

The advisor may be invited to participate in the committee’s scrutiny reviews and to attend informal meetings with Members and officers.

The Terms of Reference of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee are outlined below.

Terms of Reference of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee
The Health and Social Care Scrutiny sub-committee has the following powers and duties:

(a) to develop a work programme for scrutiny of the health and social care functions of the Council in consultation with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;

(b) to have specific responsibility for policy development support and scrutiny of the following functions:-
• residential and day care, family placements, domiciliary care, respite care;
• social work for children, young persons, elderly people, people with physical disabilities, people with mental health problems, learning difficulties and children with special needs;
• home care service, staffing and emergency response for elderly persons in sheltered housing, hospital social workers;
• fostering and adoption, family support services;
• youth offending services;
• meals in the home service;
• specific responsibility for policy development and support and scrutiny of the parts of the budget and policy framework which fall within the terms of reference of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny sub-committee;
• scrutiny of Health service functions;
• collaborative working with health agencies;
• commissioning and contracting health and social care e.g. child protection services, services for people with HIV, asylum seekers.

(c) to review and make reports and recommendations to the Executive and the Council in respect of the functions within its terms of reference;

(d) assist the Council and the Executive in the development of the budget and policy framework by analysis of policy issues;

(e) conduct research, community and other consultation in the analysis of policy issues and possible options;

(f) to consider, report and make recommendations on any matter within the subcommittee’s terms of reference affecting the area and/or those who live, work or travel through Harrow;

(g) to conclude reviews promptly, normally within 6 months;

(h) to contribute to the annual report on the work of scrutiny.