

SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS ACROSS CALDERDALE AND KIRKLEES

Meeting:	Calderdale & Kirklees Joint Health Overview Scrutiny Committee
Date:	6 August 2026
Cabinet Member (if applicable)	Not applicable
Key Decision Eligible for Call In	Not applicable
Purpose of Report To seek agreement from the Calderdale and Kirklees Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (C&K JHOSC) that, subject to approval by both Calderdale and Kirklees Overview and Scrutiny Committees, the Committee be disbanded and its functions incorporated within a revised Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CKW JHOSC).	
Recommendations • That the Committee recommends to Calderdale Council and Kirklees Council Overview and Scrutiny Committees that the Calderdale and Kirklees Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee be disbanded. • That this recommendation is subject to both authorities agreeing the establishment of a revised Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CKW JHOSC). • That the revised CKW JHOSC also assumes the responsibilities currently undertaken by the Older Peoples Mental Health Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OPMH JHOSC), where appropriate. • That the constitutional and governance arrangements required to establish the revised committee are developed and presented to the respective authorities for approval.	
Reasons for Recommendations The current arrangements for joint health scrutiny across Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield have evolved over time, resulting in a number of separate joint committees with overlapping memberships, health partners and areas of focus. The proposed amalgamation would: • create a simpler and more coherent joint scrutiny structure;	

- reduce duplication of meetings, reporting and administrative support;
- make more effective use of councillor and officer time across the participating authorities;
- provide a single forum for considering strategic healthcare issues that affect residents across the West Yorkshire health footprint;
- strengthen relationships with NHS partners by providing a clear and consistent scrutiny mechanism; and
- ensure that scrutiny resources are deployed in a proportionate and prudent manner whilst maintaining effective democratic oversight of health service developments.

The proposal is therefore considered to represent a more efficient and effective approach to the discharge of the councils' health scrutiny responsibilities.

Resource Implications:

The proposal is expected to make more effective use of existing officer and member resources through the reduction of duplicated committee administration, agenda preparation, report writing and attendance requirements.

The revised Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CKW JHOSC) will operate under a resource-sharing arrangement between the participating local authorities, similar to existing joint scrutiny committee arrangements. This will include the sharing of officer support, governance and democratic services functions, and associated administrative responsibilities, ensuring that the resource requirement is distributed proportionately across the partner authorities.

Any costs associated with establishing the revised committee would be met from existing resources and are not anticipated to be significant.

Date signed off by Executive Director & name

Not applicable

Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?

Not applicable

Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer)?

Not applicable

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: None

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes, the report does not contain any personal data, and no GDPR implications have been identified.

1. Executive Summary

The Calderdale and Kirklees Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee was established to scrutinise matters relating to a reconfiguration affecting health services across the two authorities.

The committee's scrutiny of the current reconfiguration programme is now largely complete, meaning that future joint scrutiny activity is expected to be limited to major updates and any significant service change proposals.

Regional health service planning and delivery arrangements have become increasingly aligned across Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield, with many issues affecting residents across all three areas.

The existence of separate joint scrutiny committees, including the C&K JHOSC and the OPMH JHOSC, has created the potential for duplication of governance, officer support and member involvement.

It is therefore proposed that, subject to the approval of the constituent authorities, the current arrangements be streamlined through the creation of a single Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This would provide a more efficient and sustainable model for the scrutiny of strategic health issues and NHS service changes affecting the wider area.

This proposal is not intended to reduce the level of scrutiny applied to health services. Rather, it seeks to strengthen scrutiny by providing a single, coordinated forum.

2. Information required to take a decision

Joint health scrutiny committees may be established where health matters affect the area of more than one local authority.

The Calderdale and Kirklees Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee was established principally to scrutinise the reconfiguration and development of health services affecting the Calderdale and Kirklees area.

The majority of this programme of scrutiny work has now been completed, with the committee having fulfilled its primary purpose. Future scrutiny requirements are anticipated to focus predominantly only on significant service developments, major updates, or substantial changes proposed by NHS partners.

Given the reduced requirement for dedicated oversight of the reconfiguration programme, and the increasing strategic alignment of health services across Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield, it is considered appropriate that future matters are considered through a revised Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee rather than through separate joint scrutiny arrangements.

Current arrangements include the Calderdale and Kirklees Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the OPMH JHOSC. Health services are increasingly planned and delivered across larger geographical footprints. Many service developments, NHS transformation programmes and strategic healthcare decisions now affect residents similarly across Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield.

As a result, there is a strong case for aligning scrutiny arrangements with these service delivery arrangements through the creation of a single joint committee.

The proposal would simplify governance arrangements and provide a clear route through which NHS partners can engage with elected members regarding service changes and strategic developments.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Council Plan

The proposal supports the council's commitment to effective governance, partnership working and efficient use of resources.

It will assist in ensuring that residents continue to benefit from effective scrutiny of health services whilst avoiding unnecessary duplication.

3.2 Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations.

3.3 Legal Implications

Local authorities have powers to establish Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees where NHS matters affect more than one authority area.

Any revised arrangements will require the approval of the participating authorities and any necessary constitutional amendments.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

Not applicable.

3.5 Other (e.g. Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)

Failure to review existing arrangements may result in duplication of governance and inefficient use of resources.

The proposed arrangements would provide a more sustainable framework for the future scrutiny of health services.

4. Consultation

Informal discussions have taken place between scrutiny officers supporting the relevant councils and joint committees, and the previous Chairs of each Local Authority's Health Scrutiny Committees. Formal consultation will take place through the respective democratic decision-making processes of the participating authorities.

5. Engagement

Relevant NHS partners and participating local authorities will be engaged in the development of the revised governance arrangements.

6. Options

6.1 Options considered

Option 1: Maintain Existing Arrangements

Advantages

- No change required.
- Existing governance arrangements remain familiar.

Disadvantages

- Potential duplication of work.
- Multiple committees considering related issues.
- Less efficient use of member and officer resources.

Option 2: Establish a Revised Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield JHOSC (Recommended Option)

Advantages

- Streamlined governance arrangements.
- Better alignment with current NHS structures and partnership arrangements.
- Reduced duplication.
- More effective use of councillor and officer time.
- Single point of engagement for NHS partners.

Disadvantages

Transition arrangements will need to be developed and agreed.

6.2 Reasons for recommended option

Option 2 is recommended because it provides a more proportionate, efficient and sustainable model for joint health scrutiny.

It reflects the increasingly collaborative nature of healthcare planning and delivery across Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield and allows scrutiny arrangements to align more closely with how services are commissioned and delivered.

In addition, the principal scrutiny work programme for which the Calderdale and Kirklees JHOSC was established is nearing completion. Only future substantial service change proposals would require joint scrutiny consideration. Any ongoing scrutiny requirements arising from the reconfiguration programme can be incorporated into the remit and work programme of the Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

7. Next steps and timelines

Following consideration of this report recommendations will be referred to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees and councils for consideration. Constitutional and governance arrangements will also be drafted.

Membership and terms of reference for the revised CKW JHOSC will be developed. Subject to approval by all participating authorities, implementation will take place during the 2026/27 municipal year.

8. Contact officer

Yolande Myers, Principal Governance Officer, Kirklees Council
Ben Marshall, Senior Scrutiny Officer, Calderdale Council

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

None

10. Appendices

None

11. Service Director responsible

Samantha Lawton, Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning