

## **Committee: Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

**Date: 10 January 2019**

Wards: ALL

**Subject: Audit of Croydon and Wandsworth Personal Independent Payment Assessment Centres.**

Lead member: Councillor Peter McCabe, Chair of the Healthier Communities and Older People overview and scrutiny panel.

Contact officer: Stella Akintan, [stella.akintan@merton.gov.uk](mailto:stella.akintan@merton.gov.uk); 020 8545 3390

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### **Recommendations:**

- A. That the Panel comment on the accessibility audits for Croydon and Wandsworth Personal Independent Payment Assessment Centres.
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## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. This Panel has on-going concerns about difficulties Merton residents face when applying for the personal independent payment allowance. At the last meeting of the Panel, councillors asked the scrutiny team to assist Merton Centre for Independent Living in conducting an audit of assessment centres. The audits are attached.

## **2 DETAILS**

- 2.1. The Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is a benefit that helps with the extra costs of a long-term health condition or disability for people aged 16 to 64. It's gradually replacing Disability Living Allowance. This Panel has taken an active interest in addressing concerns about the roll-out of PIP.
- 2.2. There are no assessment centres located within the Borough and the nearest centres for Merton residents are in Croydon and Wandsworth.
- 2.3. This Panel have previously been informed that there are some accessibility problems and the attached audits provide an overview of the main provisions at the centres.
- 2.4. Following the visit to the Croydon assessment centre, it was reported that a new site has been found in Croydon and will open in March 2019. This centre will include all ground floor assessment rooms. The current Croydon Centre will remain open to provide an extra facility when there is a high demand.

## **3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

The Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel can select topics for scrutiny review and for other scrutiny work as it sees fit, taking into account views and suggestions from officers, partner organisations and the public.

Cabinet is constitutionally required to receive, consider and respond to scrutiny recommendations within two months of receiving them at a meeting.

- 3.1. Cabinet is not, however, required to agree and implement recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny. Cabinet could agree to implement some, or none, of the recommendations made in the scrutiny review final report.

#### **4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

- 4.1. The Panel will be consulted at the meeting

#### **5 TIMETABLE**

- 5.1. The Panel will consider important items as they arise as part of their work programme for 2018/19

#### **6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1. None relating to this covering report

#### **7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1. None relating to this covering report. Scrutiny work involves consideration of the legal and statutory implications of the topic being scrutinised.

#### **8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1. It is a fundamental aim of the scrutiny process to ensure that there is full and equal access to the democratic process through public involvement and engaging with local partners in scrutiny reviews. Furthermore, the outcomes of reviews are intended to benefit all sections of the local community.

#### **9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1. None relating to this covering report. Scrutiny work involves consideration of the crime and disorder implications of the topic being scrutinised.

#### **10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1. None relating to this covering report

#### **11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT**

#### **12 NOTE**

#### **13 BACKGROUND PAPERS**