

### **NSP Review feedback from North Somerset Council Scrutiny Panels**

The NSP Review has considered how the work of the North Somerset Partnership can better connect with council's scrutiny activity. Scrutiny Panels have each been asked to consider the review proposals and the role of the panels within the new model being proposed. Feedback from each of the meetings attended is as follows:

All Members have welcomed the proposed rationalisation of the North Somerset Partnership arrangements and the improved relationship with the scrutiny panels.

The following suggestions and points have also made:

- 1) Members raised concerns about how far the new arrangements would effectively represent the interest of carers and the voluntary sector.
- 2) Reference was made to the problem of alcohol abuse, particularly in the under 25 age group, and members sought assurances that this would remain a priority once the Safer and Stronger Communities Board had been replaced.
- 3) Members questioned how far the proposed arrangements for implementation from Autumn 2011 would reflect the planned NHS changes. It was acknowledged that full implementation of these changes would need to follow. Concerns were raised regarding how commissioning decisions would be managed given the broad remit of the People and Communities Board and it was suggested that governance arrangements may be very complex.
- 4) Reference was made to the need to notify the members of the various bodies under the current arrangements of the review timeline and when existing arrangements would cease.
- 5) A request was made for all future partnership minutes to be published on the website.
- 6) It was suggested that the chairman of each Scrutiny Panel is represented on each of the NSP Boards.
- 7) Concern was raised about the lack of political balance and back bench involvement within partnership boards.
- 8) Members were pleased to see that elements of the Children and Families' single plan would be preserved within the new People and Communities Strategy.