

**HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL
21 DECEMBER 2004**

**SCRUTINY REVIEW: EMERGENCY ADMISSIONS INTO JAMES
COOK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To introduce representatives from the South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust and establish the next steps for the Review.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Members note the contents of the Trust's presentation to the Panel.
- 2.2 That Members establish who they would like to talk to next.

3.0 EMERGENCY ADMISSIONS REVIEW

- 3.1 At the Health Scrutiny Panel's meeting on 25 November 2004 the following terms of reference were agreed to inform the review:
- a) To establish the rate of emergency admissions into James Cook University Hospital and relate to national figures
 - b) To investigate why the numbers of emergency admissions into James Cook are at their current level.
 - c) To investigate methods of reducing the amount of 'unnecessary' emergency admissions.
 - d) To investigate the impact developments such as Out of Hours, Minor Injury Units, Walk in Centres and Emergency Prevention has or could have on emergency admissions at James Cook.

- e) To investigate to what extent a 'revolving door syndrome' exists, whereby the same people are admitted and discharged from hospital on a regular basis and the costs this incurs.
- f) To examine performance indicator information relative to the interface between the NHS and Social Services in dealing with patients coming out of acute care into the primary care.
- g) To ask whether there are predictable trends in Emergency Admissions and could elective surgery be planned to complement any trend.

3.2 Since the last meeting of the Panel, correspondence has been received from the Chair of the South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust, concerning emergency admissions. The Chair has identified major themes relating to Emergency Admissions which are consistent with the terms of reference, as outlined above.

3.3 In addition, the Chair of the Trust has identified the themes of psychiatric factors and self harm, particularly in young men, as creating an increasing pressure on Emergency Medicine. It may well be that in addition to the above terms of reference, the Panel would like to investigate the reasons for this and the possible contribution of all agencies to addressing this problem.

4.0 TODAY'S MEETING

4.1 As outlined above, South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust will be in attendance at today's meeting to make their contribution to the debate and to answer any questions that the Panel has.

5.0 NEXT STEPS

5.1 Following hearing evidence from South Tees Trust, the Panel is invited to consider whom they wish to speak to next in reviewing emergency admissions. Given the terms of reference, it may be appropriate to speak to other local NHS Trusts to gain an understanding of the wider picture across the NHS in relation to Emergency Admissions. This would include Middlesbrough PCT, the TNEY Mental Health & Learning Disabilities Trust and the TENYAS Ambulance Trust. The Panel may also wish to speak to the South Tees Patient's Forum and Social Services.

4.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

4.1 No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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