

**HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL
21 DECEMBER 2004**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CONSULTATION: FUTURE SUPPORT
FOR PATIENT & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To facilitate a response from the Health Scrutiny Panel to the Department of Health's consultation on the future support arrangements for Patient & Public Involvement in Health.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Members propose the basis of a response to the Department of Health's consultation.

3.0 PATIENT & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- 3.1 Under the Government's Patient and Public Involvement in Health Agenda, there is a Patient's Forum attached to each NHS Trust. Patient's Forums have a role to be the voice of Patients within the Trust and to operate independent of the Trust, according to their own work plans.
- 3.2 At present, Patients Forums are managed by an organisation called the Commission for Patient & Public Involvement in Health, with local support arrangements being awarded by a tender process. The local support organisation for Patients Forum's in the Tees Valley is Age Concern.
- 3.3 The Government has already decided that:

- a) the Commission for Patient & Public Involvement in Health will be abolished.
- b) New arrangements will be put in place to ensure continued support for Patient & Public (PPIs) Involvement Forums;
- c) NHS Appointments Commission will appoint forum members in the future;
- d) A new centre of excellence for patient and public involvement will be set up;
- e) The present system of patient and public involvement will remain the same. This includes:
 - Patient Advice and Liaison Services (PALS)
 - Independent Complaints Advocacy Service (ICAS)
 - Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSCs)
- f) the new arrangements will not cost more than the budget currently available for the Commission for Patient & Public Involvement in Health.
- g) PPI Forums will remain independent and responsible for their own work plans and priorities.

3.4 The Government has asked *Opinion Leader Research* to carry out a survey through an online questionnaire. The questionnaire focuses on:

- a) How PPI Forums should be recruited now and in the future;
- b) What support and guidance PPI Forums need to maximise their effectiveness;
- c) What processes, structures and relationships PPI Forums need to achieve this.

3.5 The answers to the questions will help the Department of Health take forward the work to:

- a) transfer responsibility for making forum appointments to the NHS Appointments Commission;
- b) put in place future staff support arrangements for forums
- c) establish a centre of excellence for patient and public involvement;
- d) help patients forums continue to work in partnership with the NHS, OSCs and the Healthcare Commission.

3.6 A copy of the questionnaire is attached.

4.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

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