

**HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL
12 JANUARY 2005**

**HEALTHY LIVING REVIEW
APPRAISAL OF EVIDENCE GATHERED**

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To introduce the Mayor and Prof. Peter Kelly, Director of Public Health & Health Improvement at Middlesbrough Primary Care Trust to the Panel.
2. To facilitate a debate between the Panel and those invited, in relation to the co-ordination of healthy living initiatives in light of the evidence gathered.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. That the Panel notes the content of the report.
4. That the Panel prepares a final report of the Healthy Living Review based on evidence gathered, following today's meeting.

CONSIDERATION

5. The Panel has received a substantial amount of evidence in completing its Healthy Living Review, from witnesses internal and external to the Council.
6. At its first meeting to study this topic, the Health Scrutiny Panel heard from the Mayor, who expressed a view that Healthy Living Initiatives could possibly be more co-ordinated to improve the services they offer.
7. Integral to the evidence gathering process was the Healthy Living Seminar, which was held on 15 November 2004. At this meeting, Prof. Peter Kelly outlined the range of healthy living projects currently operational across Middlesbrough, together with what has gone on in the recent past and the sort of projects which would be advantageous to run in the future. The evidence

received from Prof. Kelly indicated that in the running of the projects, there is a significant amount of cross agency co-ordination.

8. In addition to hearing from the Primary Care Trust, the Seminar also heard from a practising GP about views on Healthy Living from a practitioners point of view and the North East Public Health Observatory about measuring the impact of Healthy Living Initiatives.
9. At its meeting on 25 November 2004, the Panel was in agreement that the Seminar had been very useful to consider the issues relevant to promoting a Healthy Living culture across the town.
10. The Panel was particularly interested in the levels of co-ordination at different stages of Healthy Living projects. In its deliberations on 25 November 2004, the Panel took the view on the evidence received that there was significant co-ordination and cross agency working when projects were being planned and funds to support such projects were being bid for.
11. Considering the evidence received from the North East Public Health Observatory, the Panel were particularly interested in how officers measured impacts of the projects, to establish whether they were having a positive impact and indeed, whether projects were worth operating in the future.
12. At the meeting on 25 November 2004, the Panel was of the view that evidence gathered so far, indicated that the level of co-ordination and cross agency working in assessing the impact of projects, was not as evolved as when projects were being planned and funding was applied for.
13. The Panel expressed the view that before a final report is prepared on the basis of the evidence gathered, it would be useful to discuss further the importance of assessing a project's impact and therefore, its worth.
14. It is to this end and in line with the Panel's request that the Mayor and Prof. Peter Kelly from the Primary Care Trust, have been invited to meet with the Health Scrutiny Panel.
15. It may be that the Panel would like to explore with the invited witnesses how capacity could be built into projects to assess impacts, what indicators could be used to gauge a project's influence and when the evaluative process should begin on a project.
16. Following this discussion, it is anticipated that a final report will be produced, mindful of all of the evidence the panel has gathered.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

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