

AGENDA ITEM: 5

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

8 JUNE 2005

BRIEFING NOTE DETERMINING THE PANEL'S WORK PROGRAMME

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide the Members of Health Scrutiny Panel with a range of information, extracted from various sources to assist in the consideration of suitable topics for inclusion into the Panel's Work Programme.
2. The Health Scrutiny Panel needs to develop a Work Programme for the 2005/06 Municipal Year, together with a timeframe for each review, for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 21 June 2005. Detailed terms of reference can be developed at the start of each review.
3. As such the Corporate Performance Plan, the Forward Work Programme, the Executive Director for Social Care, the Executive Member for Social Care & Health, local NHS Trusts and the Public Health Observatory have been the foundation sources for this briefing note.
4. However, it should be appreciated that some of the areas detailed below are continually evolving and further details will emerge throughout the year.
5. In addition to establishing the Panel's Work Programme, the Panel may consider it appropriate to receive illustrations from service departments in relation to impending legislation and to respond on an ad hoc basis to emerging issues which would be considered appropriate for an investigation or review to be undertaken.

TOPIC	Executive Member Social Care & Health	Middlesbrough PCT	Forward Work Programme	Corporate Performance Plan	Public Health Observatory	TNEY Trust	Executive Director for Social Care	From Members
Tobacco Control - its impact on the Health of the Town and the viability of increased control		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>
Impact of Alcohol – Considering the extent of poor health episodes it contributes to and alcohol control within the town				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Oral Health – The extent of poor dental health and the availability of NHS Dental Services in the town		<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>			
Coronary Heart Disease – investigating the extent of its prevalence and considering approaches to address the matter		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>				
Possible Merger - of TNEY Trust with County Durham & Darlington Priority Services NHS Trust						<input type="checkbox"/>		
Complaints Procedures of local NHS Trusts – Assessing how complaints are handled	<input type="checkbox"/>						<input type="checkbox"/>	
NHS Direct and Out Of Hours services - The Effectiveness of the local provision	<input type="checkbox"/>						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Role of Voluntary & Community Sector in the provision of care for long term conditions - such as diabetes and epilepsy	<input type="checkbox"/>						<input type="checkbox"/>	
Services for people with sensory impairments – investigating the quality of services for people who may be deaf, hard of hearing and/or blind							<input type="checkbox"/>	

6. Having considered the information contained within the table, together with individual Members' identified topics for inclusion into the Work Programme, the Panel may wish to discuss various aspects contained within the Corporate Performance Plan to raise potential areas for consideration. They could range from areas already identified as suitable for development through commitments or areas where the specific performance is below the targeted

level. For this purpose, **Appendix A** details the relevant Section of the Corporate Performance Plan for the Panel's consideration as outlined below:

Appendix A – Council's Priority Contributions to Community Strategy themes – Promoting Healthier Communities for all and Effective Social Care for Adults

7. The Panel may also wish to apply a degree of emphasis on a particular source for example, would the Panel consider issues which are clearly raised as a concern by the public to carry more weight than those considered important by the service provider? In practice the Panel will need to apply a considered opinion from all sources against the individual subject area.
8. Once the Panel has identified Scrutiny topics, anticipated time frames need to be applied. It is suggested to the Panel that a standard template for applying time allocations should be treated with caution as when scoping a subject a number of complexities may arise, therefore the anticipated duration should be allocated to the subjects on an individual basis.
9. The Panel is also advised to be cautious in setting an overly ambitious Work Programme for which it may be unable to deliver.
10. In addition to the above, the Panel may also consider establishing some small Sub-Groups to look at sharp focused areas of supplementary aspects of the main topic being scrutinised.

RECOMMENDATIONS

11. It is recommended that the Health Scrutiny Panel receives the report and considers which issues it would like to see included in the Panel's Work Programme for the 2005/06 Municipal Year.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:-

- (i) The Corporate Plan 2005/6
- (ii) Middlesbrough Primary Care Trust Business Plan 2005-8
- (iii) North East Public Health Observatory work programme 2005-6

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