

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

A meeting of the Health Scrutiny Panel was held on 14 June 2006.

PRESENT: Councillor Dryden (Chair); Councillors Biswas, Ferrier, Harris, Lancaster and Mawston.

OFFICIALS: J Bennington and E Williamson.

**** AN APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE** was submitted on behalf of Councillor Rooney.

**** DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made at this point of the meeting.

**** MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Health Scrutiny Panel held on 23 May 2006 were submitted and approved subject to the inclusion of Councillor Mawston under the heading of apologies for absence.

WORK PROGRAMME 2006/07 – HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

The Scrutiny Support Officer submitted a report, which incorporated information extracted from various sources to assist in the consideration of suitable topics for inclusion in the Panel's Work Programme 2006/2007.

Such information included the Council's Strategic Plan, the Forward Work Programme and suggested scrutiny topics from Council Members, Executive Member for Social Care and Health, Director of Social Care, Chief Executives of local NHS Trusts, Patient Forums and members of the public.

The suggested scrutiny topics were as follows: -

- a) the provision of Smoking Cessation Services and their effectiveness;
- b) Healthy Living Projects;
- c) the provision of Sexual Health Services and their effectiveness;
- d) roll out of Choose & Book initiative and its impact;
- e) Hospital Acquired infections;
- f) Cancer Services with a particular focus on waiting times for treatment;
- g) Drugs Services – is a community based service the best approach?
- h) National Service Framework for Neurological Conditions – how are services planned to ensure that the standards are met?
- i) Physical Disability Strategy – is it effective?
- j) AIDS & HIV services – do they meet the needs of modern Middlesbrough's population?
- k) The Patient Journey – how effectively do different parts of the NHS interact with each other in relation to patient care?
- l) Middlesbrough's sewerage system & its impact on public health.

In addition to the Work Programme it was noted that the Panel might consider it appropriate to receive illustrations from representatives of the local health economy in relation to impending legislation and to respond on an ad hoc basis to emerging issues during the year.

The Panel was also reminded that under the terms of the Local Government Act 2000, local authorities had a responsibility of community leadership and a power to promote community well being. In addition to the Scrutiny Panel's specific health scrutiny powers they had the power to consider any matter which was not the responsibility of the Council but which affected the local authority or the inhabitants of its area.

It was noted that the Work Programme, together with a provisional timetable for each scrutiny review, would be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Board for consideration. The Panel would formulate the detailed terms of reference at the start of each scrutiny review.

In discussing future topics for review Members referred to the recurring theme of the patient's experience when undertaking previous examinations. The Panel considered that the patient's perspective should be at the forefront of future investigations.

The Panel discussed ways of obtaining the views of the general public and in particular young people on the suggested topics for investigation.

AGREED as follows: -

1. That in order to assist in determining the appropriateness and the timeframe for potential scrutiny topics as listed above (a) to (l) within the Health Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2006/2007 further background information be provided such as :-
 - a) the impact of previous scrutiny reviews;
 - b) implications of the National Framework;
 - c) impact of any impending legislation and guidance.
2. That views be obtained on the suggested topics for investigation from a range of sources including:-
 - a) Further Education Colleges;
 - b) Age Concern;
 - c) Members of the public by means of a health consultation event possibly held in the Cleveland Centre or other appropriate location.
3. That the need to obtain the views of service users continues to be regarded as a vital element of future investigations.

**** OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD UPDATE**

In a report of the Chair of the Health Scrutiny Panel, Members were advised of the key matters considered and action taken arising from the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 30 May 2006.

NOTED