

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

17 JULY 2006

WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To update the Panel on the work done in relation to compiling the work programme of the Health Scrutiny Panel for 2006/7.
2. To seek a decision from the Health Scrutiny Panel as to what it would like to set as its work programme for 2006/7.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. That the Health Scrutiny Panel notes the information contained within this report.
4. That the Health Scrutiny Panel decides which topics it would like to include in its work programme for 2006/7.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

5. As Members will recall, at its meeting on 14 June 2006, the Health Scrutiny Panel received a report that outlined potential topics for consideration, which had been collected from a range of sources.
6. The Panel requested that further consultation be done on the potential topics for the work programme. The Panel requested that the public at large be offered the opportunity to comment/contribute, as with further education colleges and Age Concern.
7. Those steps have been duly taken. To allow those stakeholders a bigger window to contribute their thoughts, it is intended that any comments received will be supplied to the Panel at today's meeting.

8. Further to the above, the Panel asked that of the potential topics presented, it be advised of any national priorities and whether there were specific areas where it would be particularly timely for the Panel to look into.
9. That desk-based research has been done and the results of such are laid out below. To refresh the Panel's memory, the table referring to potential topic items is reproduced below.

TOPIC	Executive Member for Health & Social Care	Director of Social Care	Topical Issues nationally	Strategic Plan	Non-executive Councillors	Middlesbrough PCT	South Tees Hospitals Trust
The provision Smoking Cessation Services and their effectiveness				X		X	
Healthy Living Projects						X	
The provision of Sexual Health Services and their effectiveness						X	
out of Choose & Book initiative and its impact						X	
Healthcare Acquired Infections			X				X
Cancer Services – with a particular focus on waiting times for treatment			X				X
Drugs Service – Is a community based service the best approach?	X	X		X			
National Service Framework for Neurological Conditions – How are services planned to ensure that the standards are met?	X	X					
Physical Disability Strategy – Is it effective?	X	X					
AIDS & HIV services – Do they meet the needs of modern Middlesbrough's population?	X	X					
The Patient Journey – how effectively do different parts of the NHS interact with each other in relation to patient care?			X				
Middlesbrough's Sewerage System & its impact on public health					X		

10. In terms of national priorities, one could say that they are all priorities such is the importance of all determinants on the community's health. Nonetheless, it could be said that Cancer Services have received significant attention on a national level and have received increased funding as part of the National Cancer Plan.

11. Secondly, the topic of Healthcare Acquired Infections is a high profile public issue that receives a lot of media attention and is of great public concern. The South Tees NHS Trust is currently very active in combating the prevalence of Healthcare Acquired Infections and has suggested that the local health economy and the community as a whole would benefit from a scrutiny review into Healthcare Acquired Infections.
12. It is stressed, however, that the decision of what to review is the Panel's. It may review any matter relating to Health in Middlesbrough and is by no means restricted to the list above.
13. It is advised that the Panel chooses three topics and articulates the order in which it would like to conduct reviews into the topics.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

13. No background papers were used in the production of this report.

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