

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

23 AUGUST 2006

**REVIEW INTO HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS
DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE**

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To introduce the new review topic of Healthcare Associated Infections to the Health Scrutiny Panel, together with a DRAFT set of terms of reference.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That Members consider the following DRAFT Terms of Reference and following any amendments required, agree to adopt them, to direct the Review.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

3. As Members will recall, at the Health Scrutiny Panel's meeting on 17 July 2006, the decision was taken as to what to consider in the Panel's work programme for 2006/7.
4. It was decided that the first topic to be reviewed should be that of Healthcare Associated Infections (HCAIs). As the Panel will be aware, the topic of HCAIs is one that has a very high profile and often receives significant exposure in the media. The most high profile HCAI is referred to as MRSA, although that is far from the only HCAI in existence.
5. The matter of HCAI and facility cleanliness is a current priority for the Department of Health and plays a significant part in the assessment of Trust performance. To inform and direct the Panel's review into HCAIs, it is necessary to agree Terms of Reference.
6. The DRAFT Terms of Reference for the Panel's review into HCAI are outlined below.

- 6.1 To investigate the topic of Healthcare Associated Infections (HCAI) as it affects the residents of Middlesbrough.

Specifically

- 6.2 To establish the historical and current prevalence of HCAI in Middlesbrough, within the context of regional and national statistics and how the local health economy is performing against national standards.
- 6.3 To investigate what current local initiatives there are to reduce the prevalence of HCAs and consider their measurable and/or likely impact.
- 6.4 To investigate the facts pertaining to how HCAI are contracted.
- 6.5 To investigate how the local NHS reacts to incidences of HCAs.
- 6.6 To investigate current cleaning arrangements in relevant medical facilities, including the contractual arrangements of cleaning services and the operational management of the cleaning services.
- 6.7 To investigate what steps (if any) patients and visitors could take to reduce the prevalence of HCAI.
- 6.8 To investigate what further steps the local NHS could take to reduce the prevalence of HCAI.
- 6.9 To seek evidence in relation to HCAI from whomever the Panel wishes to approach.
- 6.10 To prepare and publish a Final Report, detailing the evidence gathered during the review.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

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