

AGENDA ITEM: 8(e)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

22 AUGUST 2006

HEALTH SCRUTINY UPDATE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To advise the OSB of the progress of the Health Scrutiny function.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the OSB notes the progress of the Health Scrutiny Panel.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

3. The Health Scrutiny Panel has completed its review into Out of Hours services and the Final Report into the matter is elsewhere on the Agenda for today's meeting.
4. Members of the OSB will recall that at its last meeting, it was updated verbally as to what the work programme of the Health Scrutiny Panel would be. For confirmation, it is Healthcare Associated Infections, the roll out of the Choose & Book Agenda, Sewerage and its impact on public health and Cancer Services, with a specific focus upon waiting times for treatment.
5. In line with the above, the Health Scrutiny Panel is due to meet on 23 August 2006, to commence its review into Healthcare Associated Infections. At that meeting, the Panel is due to hear an initial setting of the scene from the South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust and the views of the Patient & Public Involvement Forum attached to the Trust. Following that meeting, the Panel will take evidence from other sources, including the national association of Hospital Estates Management and Clinical staff.
6. The Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee met on 31 July 2006, when the Joint Committee appointed its Chair & Vice Chair for 2006/7 and considered its work programme for the 2006/7 municipal year. The Joint Scrutiny Committee was advised that it was highly likely that there will be a statutory consultation on the future of urology services, that the Joint Scrutiny

Committee will be required to engage with. In addition, it is anticipated that there will be changes to neo-natal services that will require the Joint Scrutiny Committee's involvement to some extent.

7. In addition to the above, the Joint Scrutiny Committee expressed a wish to conduct a proactive piece of work and not simply respond to NHS led statutory consultations. The Joint Scrutiny Committee expressed an interest in exploring the recent White Paper "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say" and in particular the ramifications for hospitals of the White Paper's stated aims of increasing the amount of services provided in the community.
8. Before such a review is launched, the Joint Scrutiny Committee intends to hold a seminar with a range of speakers on the White Paper. This will provide the Members with a greater depth of knowledge on the White Paper and also inform the Joint Scrutiny Committee on areas which they would like to explore further during a review. The seminar is scheduled for September.
9. The Middlesbrough & Eston Health Scrutiny Joint Committee is in the process of evaluating the written evidence it requested, before a Final Report is produced on Respite & Palliative services for Children with Life Limiting Illnesses. Once the Final Report is produced, the Membership will consider the topics it would like to cover in 2006/7.
10. In addition, following the referral to the Secretary of State for Health of aspects of the Acute Services Proposals, a substantive response is awaited from the Department of Health.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

**COUNCILLOR E. DRYDEN
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