

AGENDA ITEM:

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

9 JANUARY 2007

HEALTH SCRUTINY UPDATE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To update the Board on the activities of Health Scrutiny function.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the Board notes the progress of the Health Scrutiny function.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

3. The Health Scrutiny Panel was due to hold its final meeting on Healthcare Associated Infections on 8 January 2007, at James Cook University Hospital. The Panel was scheduled to hear about the recent Department of Health visit to the Trust in relation to Healthcare Associated Infections and the associated action plans to deal with them. Following this final meeting, the Health Scrutiny Panel is scheduled to prepare its final report.
4. The Health Scrutiny Panel is also scheduled to meet on 11 January 2007, to continue and complete its review into *Choose & Book*, how it affects Middlesbrough residents and the services they require access to. The Panel is due to consider evidence from Middlesbrough PCT, South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust, Cleveland Nuffield Hospital and the Cleveland Local Medical Committee. It is anticipated at the end of this meeting that a Final Report will be prepared and published.
5. The Middlesbrough and Eston Health Scrutiny Joint Committee is due to meet in mid January to agree the text of a Final Report into its current review.
6. The Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee met on 18 December 2006, to hold a seminar on the ramifications of the Health White Paper *Our Health, Our Care, Our Say*. The White Paper poses significant questions for local health economies to consider, in relation to the future of district general hospital services. The purpose of the work currently being undertaken is to

ensure that Health Scrutiny is as well briefed as possible to respond to developments, flowing from the Policy agenda outlined in the White Paper.

7. Health Scrutiny is also awaiting the outcome of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel's investigation into the Acute Services Proposals. It is anticipated that the report will be available in mid to late January 2007.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

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Chair, Health Scrutiny Panel**

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