

AGENDA ITEM: 5

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

18 JULY 2007

THE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL IN 2007/8

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To advise the Panel of potential work programme topics for 2007/8.
2. To request that the Panel, following consideration of the topics it would like to consider, sets its work programme for 2007/8.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. That the Panel considers the information presented and agrees its work programme for 2007/8.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

4. The purpose of this report is to provide the Health Scrutiny Panel with information, extracted from various sources to assist the consideration of suitable topics for inclusion in the Panel's Work Programme for 2007/8.
5. The Health Scrutiny Panel is required to develop a Work Programme, to guide its work during 2007/8, together with an outline timeframe for each topic. Detailed terms of reference can be developed at the start of each review. Once agreed by the Panel, the work programme will be put before the Overview & Scrutiny Board for consideration and approval, following any amendments felt necessary.
6. To this end the Strategic Plan, the Forward Work Programme, Director of Social Care, senior officers of local NHS Trusts, Councillors and members of the public have been the main sources of information for this report. A list of the issues suggested, together with the source of the suggestion is outlined overleaf.
7. It should, however, be appreciated that some of the areas detailed below are continually evolving and further details will emerge throughout the year.
8. In addition to establishing the Panel's Work Programme, the Panel may 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 which would be considered appropriate for an investigation or review to be undertaken.

9. The Panel is also reminded that under the terms of the Local Government Act 2000, local authorities have a responsibility of community leadership and a power to promote community well being. In addition, therefore, to the Scrutiny Panel's specific health scrutiny powers, scrutiny panels have the power to consider **any** matters which are not the responsibility of the Council but which affect the local authority **or** the inhabitants of its area.

TOPIC	Members of the Public	Director of Social Care	Issues identified by the Health Scrutiny Panel in 2006/7	Non-executive Councillors	Middlesbrough PCT
Medication Management in the Community		X			
The Provision of Patient Transport from James Cook University Hospital following discharge		X	X		
The implications for the local health economy of Community Foundation Trust status		X			
The implications of the integration of Health & Social Care systems		X			
Alcohol consumption amongst young people, its health impacts and the local health economy's response			X		X
Assessing the Impact of Tobacco Control Legislation					X
Public Health Strategy/Obesity Strategy					X
Commissioning Framework for Health & Well Being					X
New Dental Contract and Dental Service Provision					X
Out of Hours GP Services					X
The effectiveness of the Patient Advice & Liaison Service (PALS)				X	
Choose & Book and associated referral pathways				X	
Life Expectancy in Middlesbrough					X
Drug Addiction and associated support services				X	
Patient line hospital telephone system and its charging structure	X				

9. At the Health Scrutiny Panel's meeting on 26 June 2007, Members considered the above table outlining suggested avenues for investigation during 2007/8. Whilst the Panel felt able to identify areas of priority at that meeting, it was felt that it would be beneficial to 'test out' the suggested topics by asking the public what they thought. To that end, a table and stand will be set up in one of the entrances at James Cook University Hospital in advance of today's meeting.
10. Members of the public will be able to find out about Health Scrutiny in Middlesbrough, its previous work and will be asked to signal their priorities from the above list. They will also be able to complete a 'grumble sheet' on which they can raise any issue they would wish to see Health Scrutiny investigate.
11. That stand will be held in James Cook University Hospital, from around 12noon in advance of today's meeting. The views gathered from members of the public via the stand will be presented to the Panel at today's meeting. It is anticipated that this will assist the Panel in considering the work programme it wishes to follow in 2007/8.
12. Following the setting of the work programme, support staff will conduct research to brief the Panel on the headline issues concerned with the chosen topic, advise on the preparation of project plans and assist the Panel in drafting detailed terms of reference.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

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