

**HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL  
11 SEPTEMBER 2007**

**LIFE EXPECTANCY & CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE REVIEW**

**A QUESTION OF PUBLIC POLICY**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1. To introduce representation of the University of Durham, in attendance to assist the Panel in exploring public policy questions pertaining to Life Expectancy and Cardiovascular Disease (CVD).

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

2. That the Health Scrutiny Panel notes the contribution of the public policy specialist and considers the views gathered in the context of the wider review.

**CONSIDERATION OF REPORT**

3. The Health Scrutiny Panel will recall that on 20 August 2007, initial evidence on definitions and terminology was gathered from Public Health professionals from Middlesbrough PCT on CVD and Middlesbrough's statistics.
4. In previous meetings, the Panel has expressed a strong interest in exploring elements of public policy and the impact it can have on life expectancy, CVD and the differentials between various communities. The Panel has, in previous meetings, also accepted that various lifestyle choices have a cause and effect relationship on life expectancies in the town. Nonetheless the Panel has also stated a strong interest in exploring some of the wider societal issues behind ill health and lower life expectancies.
5. It is to that end that representation from the School of Health & Public Policy from the University of Durham will be in attendance at today's meeting. It is anticipated that there will be an initial presentation on the themes that the Panel has identified an interest in, before the meeting can open out into a debate.

6. Members may recall that interest has been expressed around such issues as economic activity/inactivity and its relationship with public health. In addition, it has also expressed an interest in the question of why public health messages only appear to be heard and taken on board by certain elements of the local community.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

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