

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

4 JANUARY 2008

**THE HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL'S NEXT TOPIC: PATIENT
TRANSPORT FROM JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
FOLLOWING DISCHARGE**

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To introduce to the Panel the next topic for investigation, which according to the Panel's work programme is Patient Transport from James Cook University Hospital (JCUH) following discharge.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the Health Scrutiny Panel considers ways it may wish to conduct a review into the above topic.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

3. In the spring/early summer of 2007, the Health Scrutiny Panel's support staff undertook research into possible topics to be considered, by the Health Scrutiny function.
4. The consultative process identified the above topic as one of importance for the local health economy and as such the Health Scrutiny Panel felt that it would be an important topic to consider.
5. The Panel is not restricted as to who it may seek evidence from on this matter and it may engage with whomsoever it feels can assist in it's consideration of the topic. Initial suggestions would include the officers from the Department of Social Care, Middlesbrough PCT, South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust, North East Ambulance Trust and Patient representatives.
6. The Health Scrutiny Panel is asked to consider how it would like to progress the investigation of this topic. The Panel could, should it wish, hold a number of sequential meetings and take evidence off a number of witnesses in turn. Alternatively, the Health Scrutiny Panel could host an event where all

witnesses are invited to attend and provide their views and debate the issues with other interested parties. Such a meeting may take longer than a usual meeting, although the benefits would be that the Panel will probably gather more information and a fuller understanding. The Panel will also be able to produce a Final Report quicker.

7. The Health Scrutiny Panel is asked to consider how it would like to progress the matter. Specifically, whether it would like to hold sequential meetings, or a longer single meeting to investigate the issue as described in paragraph 6. In addition, the Panel is asked to consider the themes around Patient Transport following discharge, that it would particularly like to investigate, so terms of reference may reflect the interests of the Panel.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

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