

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

15 JANUARY 2009

**THE PANEL'S NEXT REVIEW:
PRACTICE BASED COMMISSIONING**

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To introduce the topic of the Panel's next review, which is scheduled to be Practice Based Commissioning.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the Panel notes the content of this report and considers how it wishes to approach the topic.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

3. Members will recall that at the start of the 2008/9 municipal year, the Health Scrutiny Panel considered which topics it would like to investigate during the year. The first topic to be considered was Emotional Wellbeing & Mental Health, which the Panel has recently completed a final report on.
4. The Panel decided that following the Mental Health review, it would explore the extent to which Practice Based Commissioning (PBC) has been implemented in Middlesbrough and the sort of impact it is having upon health services. Following PBC, the Panel is scheduled to consider Stroke Services.

A Definition of Practice Based Commissioning – from the Department of Health

5. PBC continues to play a vital role in health reform. It puts clinicians at the heart of PCT commissioning and allows groups of family doctors and community clinicians to develop better services for their local communities.
6. PCTs are the budget holders and have overall accountability for healthcare commissioning, however practice-based commissioning is crucial at all stages of the commissioning process.

7. In particular, practice based commissioners, working closely with PCTs and secondary care clinicians, will lead the work on deciding clinical outcomes. They also play a key supporting role to PCTs by providing valuable feedback on provider performance.
8. PBC is about engaging practices and other primary care professionals in the commissioning of services. Through PBC, front line clinicians are being provided with the resources and support to become more involved in commissioning decisions.
9. PBC will lead to high quality services for patients in local and convenient settings. GPs, nurses and other primary care professionals are in the prime position to translate patient needs into redesigned services that best deliver what local people want.¹

Progressing a Review into Practice Based Commissioning

10. Members are asked to consider how they would like to progress a review into PBC. It could be that a roundtable discussion would be a useful approach in hearing a wide range of views, and encouraging a debate about the current status of PBC within Middlesbrough.
11. In such a format, representation could be sought from the PCT, General Practice and provider trusts who are commissioned to provide health services. Members may also be interested in inviting an independent speaker to attend to provide another perspective on PBC, to speak about how its impact can be measured and good practice from elsewhere.
12. As such, Members are asked to consider how they would like to progress the Panel's consideration of PBC. Following that discussion, it is anticipated that speakers will be contacted and meeting dates arranged, so the Panel may progress the PBC investigation.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

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¹ Please see www.dh.gov.uk/practicebasedcommissioning