

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

26 FEBRUARY 2009

**PATIENT TRANSPORT TO AND FROM JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY
HOSPITAL: A PROGRESS REPORT**

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To introduce representation from Middlesbrough PCT, South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust and North East Ambulance Service, in attendance to speak to the attached papers and provide an update on patient transport services, following a review by the Health Scrutiny Panel.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That Members note the content of the progress reports, ask any questions felt pertinent and consider how they would like to take the matter forward.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

3. Members will recall that in summer 2008, the Health Scrutiny Panel completed and published a review into Patient Transport Services (PTS), to and from James Cook University Hospital. The Panel published a final report, the Executive Summary of which is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
4. Following the publication of the Panel's Final Report, a formal response was received from the local NHS, indicating that NEAS was conducting its own review into PTS. As such, it was agreed that an update on the topic, six to eight months later, would be beneficial and would provide Members with an opportunity to learn about the outcome of the NEAS review into PTS.
5. At today's meeting, that update will be provided. The local NHS has prepared papers outlining progress, which are attached as Appendix 1 and 2. The attached papers have been prepared by NEAS and the South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust. It is understood that Middlesbrough PCT has been involved in the drafting of the attached papers.

6. It is anticipated that representatives of the local NHS will speak to the attached papers, picking out the salient points ahead of dealing with questions from the Panel. Following the debate at today's meeting, the Panel is asked to consider whether it would like a further update, on the progress of implementing the changes identified by the various PTS reviews. That update could be scheduled for around 9 to 12 months from now.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

7. Appendix 1 – Executive Summary from the Health Scrutiny Panel's Final Report into Patient Transport to and from James Cook University Hospital – published July 2008.
8. Appendix 2 – Update Report prepared by South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust, February 2009.
9. Appendix 3 – Update Report prepared by North East Ambulance Service, February 2009.

Contact Officer:

Jon Ord - Scrutiny Support Officer

Telephone: 01642 729706 (direct line)

Email: jon_ord@middlesbrough.gov.uk