

**HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL**

**26 FEBRUARY 2009**

**MIDDLESBROUGH PCT  
ANNUAL HEALTHCHECK DECLARATION**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1. To introduce representation from Middlesbrough PCT, in attendance to brief the Panel on the Healthcare Commission's Annual Healthcheck process.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

2. That Members note the content of the briefing received today and consider whether they would like to contribute any commentary, to be included in the PCT's declaration, which will be submitted to the Healthcare Commission.

**CONSIDERATION OF REPORT**

3. As Members will recall, around this time of year, the Panel is entitled to consider PCT performance against key standards and supply a commentary to the Healthcare Commission. In previous years, the Panel has received an extremely detailed presentation, documenting PCT performance against each core standard.
4. On reflection, the Panel expressed the view that hearing about performance against every standard was probably not the approach it would like to take in the future and it would prefer to hear about a few areas of PCT operation, that the Panel has direct experience of engaging with the PCT about.
5. To this end and on behalf of the Panel, the PCT were asked to prepare a paper highlighting PCT performance and activity against a few key elements of PCT operation that the Panel has had substantial experience of dealing with in the last year or so. On behalf of the Panel, it was suggested to the PCT that it particularly focus upon its patient experience function and the impact that patient experience work has had on commissioning decisions. In

addition, it was suggested that the PCT may wish to focus upon how public health intelligence is also influencing the commissioning decisions of the PCT.

6. The PCT has noted this advice and has duly produced the attached paper, which provides the Panel with detailed examples of how patient experience and public health intelligence is influencing the commissioning intent and decisions of the PCT. By way of background, the attached paper also provides a brief description of the other areas of PCT activity, which are covered by the Healthcare Commission's regulatory framework.
7. It is anticipated that the PCT representative will speak to the attached paper, before dealing with any questions that Members have. Following the debate, the Health Scrutiny Panel is asked to consider whether it would like to make a declaration to be supplied to the Healthcare Commission on the PCT's performance.
8. As touched on above, the Panel has had substantial recent experience of working with the PCT on areas such as patient experience, public health intelligence and how such themes influence their service commissioning decisions. It could be that the Panel would prefer to make comments on these fields, which are also covered in the attached PCT paper, as opposed to attempting to make comments on fields of PCT activity that the Panel does not have any recent experience in dealing with.
9. Should this suggested approach be something that the Panel would be keen to take up, a draft can be prepared following Member's instructions and shared with the Panel Members before it is submitted.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10. Please see the attached paper prepared by Middlesbrough PCT.

### **Contact Officer:**

Jon Ord - Scrutiny Support Officer  
Telephone: 01642 729706 (direct line)  
Email: jon\_ord@middlesbrough.gov.uk