

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

22 JULY 2009

**A REVIEW INTO STROKE SERVICES – A REGIONAL
PERSPECTIVE ON SERVICE STANDARDS**

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To introduce representation from the North East Strategic Health Authority, in attendance to speak about Stroke Services and the regional expectations on the quality of Stroke Services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That Members note the information gathered at today's meeting and incorporate it into the overall review of Stroke Services.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

3. The Health Scrutiny Panel has recently commenced a review into Stroke Services. So far, the Panel has received an initial briefing from the Regional Director of the Stroke Association. Some Members of the Panel are also visiting Stroke Care facilities to familiarise themselves with the services in question.
4. At today's meeting, there will be representation from a regional perspective to talk about the standards that are expected of Stroke Services. This will provide the Panel with a useful regional context, ahead of discussing services in Middlesbrough with the local NHS and Department of Social Care.
5. In line with a request made on behalf of the Panel, the SHA will be providing a briefing paper, outlining initial background information on Stroke Services around the following questions. That briefing paper will be sent out under separate cover.
 - 5.1 What are the service standards currently demanded of Stroke Services that a patient can expect to receive when they suffer a suspected Stroke?

- 5.2 Are those standards always applied?
- 5.3 What are the areas in need of development in relation to Stroke Services?
- 5.4 Where would the SHA and commissioners expect to see Stroke Services in the North East in 3 to 5 years?
- 5.5 It is noted that in 'Our Vision, Our Future' that 63% of units in the North East are compliant with the Royal College of Physicians acute stroke audit standards, which is the best percentage rate in the country. Does this mean that there are variances in the outcomes for people who suffer Strokes in the North East?
6. It is anticipated that the SHA representative will address these themes in a paper to be sent to Members, ahead of answering any questions the Panel has.
7. Following today's meeting, it is anticipated that the Panel will be seeking the views of the local NHS and the Department of Social Care relating to Stroke Services.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

8. Please see the briefing paper for the Health Scrutiny Panel, which is to be sent under separate cover.

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