

**AGENDA ITEM:**

**HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL**

**22 OCTOBER 2009**

**MIDDLESBROUGH LOCAL INVOLVEMENT NETWORK**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1. To introduce representation from the Middlesbrough Local Involvement Network in attendance at today's Panel meeting.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

2. That the Panel notes the content of this report.

**CONSIDERATION OF REPORT**

3. As the Panel is aware, there was previously a mechanism of Patient & Public Involvement, which was centred around Patient Forums, with one attached to every Trust, including PCTs.
4. This structure was changed by Central Government, with Patient Forums being replaced by Local Involvement Networks (LINKs), with one LINK to every social services authority, meaning that there is now one LINK for all of Middlesbrough.
5. A crucial part of the public accountability mechanisms in local health services is the relationship between Health Scrutiny and the LINK, and specifically the LINK's ability to refer matters to Health Scrutiny.
6. Over the last year, the Middlesbrough LINK has spent a great deal of time arranging its governance structures and developing its Membership. Now that has been done, the Middlesbrough LINK is keen to develop its relationship with the Health Scrutiny Panel.
7. As such, the Middlesbrough LINK co-ordinator will be in attendance at the Panel meeting today, to speak with Members and update Members on the progress of the LINK. It will also provide Members with an opportunity to hear about the work of the LINK and ask any questions they have.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8. No background papers were used in preparation of this report.

### **Contact Officer:**

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