

**AGENDA ITEM:**

**HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL**

**25 MAY 2010**

**TRANSFORMING COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1. To introduce representatives from the local health and social care economy, in attendance to speak about a recent policy change, in respect of community services and how they are managed.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

2. That the Panel notes the information presented at the meeting today.
3. That the Panel considers whether it would like to formulate a view on the future organisation of community services, which can then be fed into the local NHS, ahead of any decision being made.

**CONSIDERATION OF REPORT**

4. The Health Scrutiny Panel will recall that, on 5 January 2010, consideration was given to a paper discussing the intention of Middlesbrough & Redcar and Cleveland Community Services (MRCCS), to apply for Community Foundation Trust status.
5. As Members are aware, the NHS Operating Framework for 2007/8 instructed PCTs to divest themselves of community services provision. This was to ensure that PCTs become exclusively commissioners, with the community services section (often referred to as provider arms) going through a period of autonomous operation, ahead of becoming a standalone NHS Trust. As mentioned above, as recently as January 2010, there were plans in place for MRCCS to become a Community Foundation Trust.
6. As Members of the Health Scrutiny Panel may be aware, recent decisions taken by the local NHS dictate that MRCCS will no longer seek to become a Community Foundation Trust. Instead, MRCCS will be hosted by, or placed with, an existing Foundation Trust.

7. The purpose of the Panel meeting today is for the Panel to consider the detailed information connected to the change of policy. In addition, to hear the views of the local health and social care economy about the next steps and for the Panel to take a view as to the most appropriate hosting arrangement for MRCCS.
8. Once the Panel comes to a view as to the most appropriate next step, that view will be reported to the local NHS, to be considered when a final decision is made. At the meeting today, the Panel will be able to hear from senior representatives of NHS Middlesbrough (formerly the PCT), MRCCS and the Department of Social Care. The Panel is asked to note that some background papers have been supplied, which will be useful in providing more information. It is anticipated that each representative will initially speak to outline their views, ahead of dealing with questions from the Panel.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

9. Please see

9.1 Appendix 1 - *The NHS In England: The Operating Framework for 2010/11*

9.2 Appendix 2 – *Department of Social Care, Briefing Note: NHS Community Services & Organisational Structures*

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