

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

25 MAY 2010

REGIONAL HEALTH SCRUTINY – UPDATE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To ensure that the Health Scrutiny Panel is aware of the progress of the Regional Health Scrutiny project. In addition, to appraise Members of opportunities for Members to become involved in the project.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That Members note the progress report.
3. That the Panel considers how to ensure Middlesbrough's involvement with the regional health scrutiny project.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

4. The Health Scrutiny Panel has been advised previously of the regional health scrutiny project, to consider the topic of 'the health of the ex-service community'. This would include, in its focus, the wellbeing of ex-service families, as well as ex-service personnel.
5. A great deal of thought has been given as how to best approach the topic, to ensure that it covers the most relevant issues for people leaving the armed forces and their families. As such, three work streams have been identified. They are Physical Health, Mental Health and Social Wellbeing.
6. It is anticipated that each workstream will act like a Panel with representatives from four local authorities from the North East. The three workstreams will have a lead authority, which will act as Chair for the work and provide the scrutiny officer support to those workstreams. Middlesbrough's Health Scrutiny function has been asked to lead the Physical Health workstream, along with representatives of three other local authorities. It would be for the Physical Health workstream to pursue lines of enquiry, speak with relevant experts and collect evidence pertaining to how the physical health needs of

the ex-service community are assessed and catered for. The workstream will then produce a final report, outlining its work, which will essentially form a chapter of an overall report into the health needs of the ex-service community, covering all workstreams.

7. As a first step, scrutiny officers from around the North East have arranged an event, where Members can hear initial introductory evidence regarding the health needs of the ex-service community and current activity on the topic. Support Officers have been successful in securing a number of high profile national speakers. That event will take place 28 June 2010. Meetings of the Physical Health workstream will take place after that initial event.
8. It is suggested that the Health Scrutiny function considers nominating three Councillors to become involved in the regional work, which would involve attendance at the event on 28 June and participation in the Physical Health workstream.
9. It is anticipated that the Physical Health workstream would produce a final report in the Autumn, which would then form part of an overall regional health scrutiny final report into the health of the ex-service community.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

10. No background papers were used in the production of this paper.

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