

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

15 DECEMBER 2010

**REACTING TO *EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE – LIBERATING THE
NHS*
PROGRESS IN MIDDLESBROUGH**

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To introduce representation from Middlesbrough Council, NHS Middlesbrough and the Cleveland Local Medical Committee, in attendance to discuss the progress made, and the steps required, towards the implementation of the developments outlined in the *Equity & Excellence* White Paper.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the Health Scrutiny Panel engages in a discussion regarding the progress made, and the steps required, towards a successful implementation of the *Equity & Excellence* White Paper.
3. That the Health Scrutiny Panel considers how it would like to monitor the local implementation of the White Paper, and subsequent Health Bill.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

4. The Health Scrutiny Panel will recall that in September and October 2010, it undertook a significant amount of work in considering the *Equity & Excellence* White Paper and compiled a response to the associated consultation process.
For the Panel's reference, the final responses to the consultation process can be found at Appendices 1 and 2.
5. Following the consultation process, the Panel expressed a strong interest in revisiting the topic at regular intervals, to see how the local health and social care system was responding to the agenda set out in the White Paper.
6. It should be emphasised that the contents of the White Paper will not necessarily be reflected in the forthcoming Health & Social Care Bill, as the consultation process may alter certain aspects. Nonetheless, White Papers

are usually representative of a Government's intentions to legislate and it is highly probable that most aspects of *Equity & Excellence* will be important aspects of the Health & Social Care Bill. Indeed, the recently published Public Health White Paper *Healthy Lives, Healthy People*¹ reaffirms the Government's commitment to the establishment of Health & Wellbeing Boards.

7. The Panel will recall from its consideration of *Equity & Excellence* that the White Paper outlines a challenging timeline to have the proposed new structure in place, involving the abolition of PCTs and SHAs and the establishment of Health & Wellbeing Boards and GP Commissioning Consortia. *Equity & Excellence* proposes the new system should be fully operational by 1 April 2013.
8. Bearing this in mind, the Panel is keen to host a series of meetings, at various junctures, charting the progress of the local health and social care economy in implementing the plans.
9. To that end, the meeting today has been organised to hear about early progress in Middlesbrough, in responding to the agenda set in *Equity & Excellence*. As such, there will be senior representatives from Middlesbrough Council, NHS Middlesbrough & the Cleveland Local Medical Committee in attendance to take part in the discussion. As a starting point, representatives have been asked to consider the following questions, which could be used as a basis for debate at the meeting today.
 - 9.1 What progress has been made towards the development of a Local Health & Wellbeing Board for Middlesbrough?
 - 9.2 What progress has been made in establishing closer organisational relationships between Middlesbrough Council & General Practice?
 - 9.3 To what extent is work required to improve the knowledge of local government about the breadth of General Practice's functions and vice versa?
 - 9.4 There are aspects of the local NHS that Local Government has extensive experience of working with. To what extent does the local authority need to develop its understanding of the wider NHS, given its new strategic role?
 - 9.5 What stage has the development of a GP Consortium (or Consortia) for Middlesbrough reached?
 - 9.6 How is the PCT fulfilling its role relating to the transitional period, as envisaged by the Department of Health?
 - 9.7 Will the GP Commissioning Consortium/Consortia be in a position to operate in shadow form during 2011/12?

¹ Can be found at <http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthyliveshealthypeople/index.htm>

10. The above questions have been supplied as a guide and the list is by no means exhaustive. Nonetheless, the above questions will provide the Panel and contributors with a useful starting point to commence the discussion. It is anticipated that each contributor will be asked to outline some key observations about progress made and future steps required, ahead of the a debate covering the above themes and any other areas of discussion felt pertinent.
11. Following the discussion at the meeting today, the Panel is asked to consider how it would like to track and follow the developments to the local health and social care economy, as the changes are advanced. It may be that the Panel would like to hold a roundtable discussion at regular intervals, to hear about progress and contribute to the development of the new health and social care system.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

12. Please see:

Appendix 1 – Final response of the Health Scrutiny Panel to the *Equity & Excellence* Consultation process.

Appendix 2 – Final response of the Health Scrutiny Panel to the *Increasing Democratic Accountability in Health* Consultation process.

Appendix 3 – Executive Summary of *Equity & Excellence* for reference.

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