

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

4 JULY 2011

**DESIGNATION OF JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
AS A MAJOR TRAUMA CENTRE**

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To introduce representation from the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, in attendance to speak to the Panel about the designation of James Cook University Hospital, as a major trauma centre.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the Health Scrutiny Panel notes the content of the briefing received today.
3. That the Health Scrutiny Panel considers whether it would like to consider the topic any further.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

4. The Health Scrutiny Panel will recall that when considering its work programme for 2011/12, it was suggested that the Panel may wish to hear more about the designation of James Cook University Hospital as a major trauma centre. Further, it was suggested to the Panel that it would be beneficial for its general awareness, to consider how this designation may impact upon the local health economy.
5. The Health Scrutiny Panel was keen to hear more about the topic and instructed support officers accordingly. To that end, a number of senior representatives of the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation trust, including senior clinical staff, will be in attendance at the Panel meeting today to provide a briefing on the topic. The briefing will include the process leading to James Cook University Hospital's designation as a Trauma Centre, the meaning of the designation and the implications for the local health economy. Representatives of the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust will also be able to deal with any further questions put forward by the Panel.

6. The Panel will be aware that the topic of Trauma Services, and their configuration, has been the subject of many debates in recent years. The Panel will recall that in February 2010, the National Audit Office raised concerns over the variance in quality of Major Trauma services in its report *Major Trauma Care in England*. The Executive Summary of that report is appended to this covering report at Appendix 1, to provide the Panel with some background information.
7. In response to these concerns and the emerging evidence that there are better outcomes for trauma patients if they are treated in less and more specialised centres, hospitals around the country have been designated as Trauma Centres.
8. It is anticipated that representatives of the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust will initially provide a briefing for Members, ahead of dealing with questions.
9. The Panel is asked to consider whether, following consideration of the briefing today, it would like to explore the matter further by obtaining more evidence, or whether it would like to keep the matter under review.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

10. Please see Appendix 1 – Executive Summary of *Major trauma Care in England*, © National Audit Office 2010.
11. Please see Briefing Paper from South Tees Hospitals Foundation Trust on Major Trauma Services.

Contact Officer:

Jon Ord - Scrutiny Support Officer

Telephone: 01642 729706 (direct line)
Email: jon_ord@middlesbrough.gov.uk