

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

25 JULY 2011

CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE IN THE SOUTH ASIAN POPULATION – AN INITIAL BRIEFING

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To introduce colleagues from NHS Tees, who will be attending the Panel to speak to the Panel about Cardiovascular Disease in the South Asian population.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the Panel notes the content of the briefing received from NHS Tees this morning.
3. That the Panel discusses and resolves how it would like to advance its consideration of the topic.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

4. The Panel will recall that when it considered items for its 2011/12 work programme, at a meeting on 10 June 2011 one of the items that was raised with the Panel for consideration was that of Cardiovascular Disease in the South Asian Population.
5. Specifically, the Panel was advised in the Work Programme report that:

“At the start of May 2011, the BBC Asian Network aired a radio documentary entitled the Asian Death Wish. It explored, in some detail, the issue of Heart Disease (and Diabetes) within the South Asian Community. It highlighted how traditional diets, a lack of exercise and genetic factors make those in the South Asian¹ Community more susceptible to heart problems than the general population and less likely to recover from heart problems than the

¹ In this context, ‘South Asian’ refers to people of Pakistani, Indian or Bangladeshi origin

general population. Further, people of South Asian origin begin to suffer from heart problems (such as heart attacks), on average, 10 to 20 years than their ethnic European counterparts.

According to the Office of National Statistics' Population Estimates, published on 18 May 2011, people whose ethnic origin is South Asian, make up 6-6.5% of the Middlesbrough population². As such, the issue is one of importance for Middlesbrough and the planning & provision of local health services. It is suggested that the Panel could obtain more detailed data about the South Asian Community's susceptibility to heart problems, and explore whether service provision and configuration currently takes appropriate cognisance of that issue. Further, it could consider what could be done in the future to provide the South Asian Community with the assistance it requires"

6. Following a discussion about the work programme, the Panel agreed that this was a topic it wanted to consider. To that end, the Director of Public Health for Middlesbrough will be attending the meeting today, with appropriate colleagues, to take part in an initial discussion about the topic.
7. The purpose of that discussion will be to ascertain what is already known about the health profile of Middlesbrough's South Asian population, whether the apparent national concerns are replicated locally and what steps are being taken and/or could be taken to address concerns.
8. Following this initial discussion, the Panel is asked to discuss how it would like to progress its consideration of the matter. It could be that the Panel would like to seek the views of staff at the James Cook University Hospital or those within General Practice.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

9. The Work Programme Report, submitted to the Health Scrutiny Panel on 10 June 2011, was used for reference.

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² Data obtained from http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/lad-tables-2009.xls