

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

24 AUGUST 2011

IMPLEMENTATION OF HEALTH REFORMS – AN UPDATE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To introduce representatives from Middlesbrough Council, NHS Tees and the Pathfinder Middlesbrough Clinical Commissioning Group, in attendance to provide an update on progress made relating to the implementation of the Government's Health Reforms.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the Panel notes the update received at the meeting today, pursues any areas of enquiry felt pertinent and considers whether it is satisfied with the progress made.
3. That the Panel agrees to continue to receive quarterly updates on the progress made, by the local health and social care economy, in responding to the Government's Health Reforms.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

4. The topic of the Health Reforms, which are articulated in the Health & Social Care Bill, has been considered by the Health Scrutiny Panel on numerous occasions in the recent past. The Health Scrutiny Panel submitted a formal response to the consultation on the original white paper, entitled *Equity & Excellence – Liberating the NHS*.
5. The Panel has also been active in considering what the health reforms mean for Middlesbrough and how the reforms can best be implemented to benefit Middlesbrough.
6. The Panel will recall that during the 2010/11 municipal year, the Panel considered many aspects of the Health Reforms, in a formal meeting capacity, as well as hosting informal seminar briefings for all Members.

7. Specifically, the Panel held two formal meetings (15 December 2010 and 9 March 2011) where it heard about progress to date, challenges faced by the local health and social care economy and how it proposes to address the challenges posed by the reforms.
8. Panel Members will be aware that since the last progress update (9 March 2011) and over the time of local elections when the Panel was unable to meet, a great deal has happened relating to the Health Reforms and a number of significant developments have taken place.
9. Members may recall that at the start of April 2011, the Government announced a pause in the progress of the Health & Social Care Bill's passage through Parliament would be used to 'listen, reflect and improve' the Bill. A body known as the *Future Forum* was established to lead this work. A full account of these events, the outcome of the Future Forum's work, and the Government's response is appended to this covering report. The report appended, was originally submitted to the Health Scrutiny Panel on 25 July 2011, to update the Panel on developments. It will probably be a useful background paper to the debate today.
10. As is clear, The Panel rejoins the debate at a critical time. Whilst the most high profile debates have taken place at a national level, the health reforms will have a substantial impact on how health services are commissioned, provided and held to account locally. As such it is prudent for the Health Scrutiny Panel, given its statutory role in considering the performance and planning of the local NHS, to maintain an active interest in the local progress of the reforms' implementation.
11. Attending the meeting today will be Middlesbrough Council's Director of Social Care, an Assistant Director from NHS Tees and the GP Chair of the Pathfinder Middlesbrough Clinical Commissioning Group. All have a key role to play in ensuring that there is a safe and well managed transition from the current health and social care structure, to the structure envisaged in the health reforms.
12. It is anticipated that the meeting today will take the form of a discussion about progress to date in the implementation of the reforms. Those colleagues attending the Panel meeting, have been asked to speak about the issues raised by the following questions:
 - 12.1 What progress has been made in the design and development of a Local Health & Wellbeing Board for Middlesbrough?
 - 12.2 What is the current thinking about who (or which organisations) would have a seat at the table of the Local Health & Wellbeing Board?
 - 12.3 What progress has been made in considering how the relationship between the Health & Wellbeing Board and Clinical Commissioning Group will work?

- 12.4 Connected to the above, has any work started between the Health & Wellbeing Board and Clinical Commissioning Group on establishing a shared agenda/shared priorities?
13. It is anticipated that colleagues attending the meeting will initially speak to outline their perspectives on the questions above and to provide any further comments they feel appropriate. Following those initial comments, the Panel is invited to pursue any lines of enquiry it would like to, to assist it in coming to a view on the progress made in responding to the health reform agenda.
14. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Panel is asked to consider whether it is satisfied with the progress update it has received, or whether it would like to make further enquiries. If the Panel would like to make further enquiries about the local implementation of the health reforms, support staff will ensure they are facilitated and the Panel is able to pursue the matter. Alternatively, if the Panel is satisfied with the progress made, it is suggested that the Panel seeks a further update in around three months.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Report originally submitted to Health Scrutiny Panel on 25 July 2011
- Minutes of debate on 15 December 2010 & 9 March 2011

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