

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 5

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

1 AUGUST 2012

HEALTHY LIVES, HEALTHY PEOPLE: UPDATE ON PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To raise with the Panel the publication of the above paper and to seek the views of the Panel as to whether it would like to submit a response to the consultation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the Panel notes the information presented today.
3. That the Panel considers whether it would like to submit a response to the Department of Health consultation.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

4. The Panel will recall that at its last meeting, as part of the briefing from the University of Durham, it considered evidence around a current Department of Health consultation document on Public Health funding.
5. The Panel heard that the document proposes that the key determinant that will establish levels of funding will be on the premise of a standard mortality rate of 75 (SMR<75). The Department of Health asserts that SMR<75 is a measure of how many or fewer deaths there are in a local area, compared with the national average, having adjusted for the differences between the age profile of the local areas compared with the national average. A higher SMR<75 number represents a higher number of deaths.
6. The Panel heard the view expressed that by opting for a SMR<75 approach for establishing public health funding allocation, it runs the risk of not playing sufficient attention to levels of deprivation in a given area.
7. The Panel also heard that if the formulae is implemented as currently proposed, places such as Middlesbrough could lose significant

amounts in public health funding, to the point that it would be able to provide mandated services, but leave very little money left for discretionary, locally driven work. The Panel heard that this is the case for most of the North East.

8. Members may have seen recent publicity in Local Government and Health related publications, about concerns being raised in the North West region about similar areas of concern. Research from the University of Liverpool has been quoted that argues that parts of the North West region would be contemplating reductions in funding equivalent to an average of £17 per head. The Panel was also advised, that the proposals may deliver a scenario where more deprived areas receive reduced levels of funding, where more prosperous parts of the country receive an increase in public health allocations.
9. The Panel has heard that the Department of Health has assured local authorities (who will take on public health responsibilities in April 2013) that funding for 2013/14, will not be less than current funding levels. After 2013/14, however, the Panel has heard that funding levels are far from certain.
10. As such, the purpose of the agenda item today is to ensure that the Health Scrutiny Panel has the most up to date information on the consultation proposals, together with the possible ramifications of such a policy framework. The Panel is then asked to consider whether it would like to submit a response to the Department of Health's consultation, which closes on 14 August 2012. The Panel is asked to note that the Director of Public Health will be in attendance at the meeting today, to assist the Panel in its discussions

BACKGROUND PAPERS

11. Please see *Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Update on Public Health Funding* Can be accessed at www.dh.gov.uk

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