

# MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

## AGENDA ITEM 5

### HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

23 OCTOBER 2012

#### CHILDREN WITH COMPLEX NEEDS – AN INITIAL BRIEFING

#### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To introduce senior officers from Middlesbrough Council & NHS Tees, in attendance to provide an initial briefing on the topic of Children with Complex Needs.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the Health Scrutiny Panel notes the information provided.
3. That the Health Scrutiny Panel considers how it would like to progress its consideration of children with complex needs, with a view to developing terms of reference.

#### Consideration

4. As Members will recall, the Health Scrutiny Panel has identified a keen interest in considering the topic of Children with Complex Needs, with a specific focus on understanding the future pressures (in cost and capacity), that related services will face.
5. There are different interpretations of what exactly constitutes 'children with complex needs, although it is suggested that as a starting point, the Panel uses the following definition provided by the Department for Education. It reads

*"Such children have a number of discrete needs that require additional support from more than one agency. Their needs are often chronic and may be lifelong. Different needs tend to interact, exacerbating their impact on the child's development and wellbeing".*

6. As a first step in considering the topic, the Panel will receive an initial briefing from senior officers from NHS Tees and Middlesbrough Council. This briefing will hopefully 'set the scene', and will be an opportunity to hear the initial views of senior professionals from Middlesbrough Council & NHS Tees, which will assist the Panel in developing terms of reference.

7. In preparing their briefing the representatives from NHS Tees and Middlesbrough Council have been asked to specifically consider the following points and be prepared to speak around them.
  - 7.1 What definition does the Local Authority/NHS Tees use for Children with Complex Needs?
  - 7.2 How many children are there, in Middlesbrough, with complex needs?
  - 7.3 Does the Local Authority/NHS Tees know how many are born each year?
  - 7.4 Does the Local Authority/NHS Tees know what its current spending is on Children with Complex Needs?
  - 7.5 From a Local Authority/NHS Tees perspective, what are the areas of concern/future attention regarding Children with complex needs?
  - 7.6 What, in the Local Authority /NHS Tees view, is good about service provision for Children with Complex Needs in Middlesbrough? What could be improved?
8. In addition to addressing the above, those attending have been asked to raise any other issues that they would see fit to raise and any views on the sorts of questions/themes that the Health Scrutiny Panel should be pursuing. It is emphasised that this meeting is very much a first step in gathering key background information and initial thoughts on the topic.
9. Following the receipt of the briefing today, the Panel is asked to consider the themes it would like to explore and the organisations it would like to engage with.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10. No background papers were used in preparing this report.

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