

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 6

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

5 DECEMBER 2012

CHILDREN WITH COMPLEX NEEDS – EVIDENCE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To introduce the Director of Public Health, in attendance to provide evidence to the Health Scrutiny Panel, on the topic of Children with Complex Needs.
2. The Panel is also asked to consider draft terms of reference to govern the review of Children with Complex Needs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. That the Health Scrutiny Panel notes the evidence submitted by the Director of Public Health and incorporates it into the overall review.
4. That the Health Scrutiny Panel considers, makes any amendments felt necessary and ultimately approves the draft terms of reference.

Consideration

5. The Panel will recall that at its last meeting, on 23 October 2012, an initial discussion was held with senior representatives of the local health and social care economy, to discuss some introductory questions about Children with Complex Needs. The Panel also took the opportunity to gauge the opinion of those representatives about service areas that, in their view, would benefit from consideration by the Health Scrutiny Panel.
6. The Panel heard that areas of concern for Public Health professionals, that could be exposing local children to a greater risk of illness and disability, are around low birth weight and immunisation take up rates. The Panel considered that receiving information about these public health issues would be a very useful step, before considering the planning and provision of services in more detail.

7. As such, the Panel prepared the following questions in relation to Low Birth Weight, for the Director of Public Health to address and to form the basis of the debate today. The Director of Public Health has prepared a paper addressing the Panel's questions, which will be available at the meeting.

8. Low Birth Weight

8.1 What constitutes a low birth weight?

8.2 What can cause low birth weight, with specific emphasis on lifestyle factors?

8.3 What are the risks associated with a low birth weight, for the child as it develops?

8.4 What does the data tell us about the prevalence of low birth weights in Middlesbrough, across electoral wards? How does Middlesbrough rank with other local authorities?

8.5 What efforts have been made so far to address the determinants of low birth weights?

8.6 What, in your view as a DPH, should be done to progress the matter?

9. It is anticipated that the Director of Public Health will initially speak to his paper, picking out the most salient points, before addressing questions from the Panel. The Panel is asked to incorporate the information gathered into the overall review.

Immunisation

10. To ensure that the Panel has the most accurate and up to date data, detailed evidence around immunisation in Middlesbrough will be covered by the Director of Public Health at a meeting of the Health Scrutiny Panel on 15 January 2013.

Draft Terms of Reference

11. Initially, the Panel is asked to consider the evidence presented by the Director of Public Health and incorporate it into the overall review focussing on Children with Complex Needs. The following has been prepared as DRAFT terms of reference for the Panel's consideration, amendment where appropriate and ultimate approval.

11.1 To investigate the key indicators of child health in Middlesbrough and specifically, what they say about child health in Middlesbrough.

- 11.2 To investigate the prevalence of complex needs amongst children in Middlesbrough.
 - 11.3 To investigate the current range of services available for children with complex needs in Middlesbrough.
 - 11.4 To investigate whether there are any gaps in service provision for children with complex needs.
 - 11.5 To explore the future challenges for services for children with complex needs.
 - 11.6 To investigate the extent to which the local health and social care economy co-ordinates its efforts, in the provision of services to children with complex needs and their families.
12. The Panel is asked to note that following evidence today, evidence from NHS Tees, the Local Authority's Children's Services and South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, will be presented at meetings in the near future.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 13. Please see the agenda papers and minutes from 23 October 2012
- 14. Please see paper prepared by the Director of Public Health, which will be sent out under separate cover.

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