

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

4 NOVEMBER 2014

NHS Health Check

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1. To outline the purpose of today's meeting.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

2. At the panel's meeting in July, Members received a presentation from the Director of Public Health. During that presentation Members learnt about the NHS Health Check and it was agreed further information would be brought to the panel at an appropriate time.
3. Therefore in order to assist with panel members' awareness of this topic, the Director of Public Health in Middlesbrough has been invited, along with representatives from the NHS. Tanja Braun, NHS North of England Commissioning Support Unit and Elaine Salvati, Nurse Clinical Lead, Tees Valley Public Health Shared Service will be in attendance to give the panel an overview of what the NHS Health Check is, what the levels of take up are and what difference it is expected to make. **Copies of the power point slides are attached at Appendix 1.**
4. The NHS Health Check programme is a world-leading programme and a key component of this Government's priority to reduce premature mortality.<sup>1</sup> The programme is a national illness prevention programme to identify people 'at risk' of developing heart disease, stroke, diabetes, kidney disease or vascular dementia. Introduced on a phased basis in 2009, where Primary Care Trusts were expected to roll it out over 5 years. Therefore when local authorities took responsibility for the NHS Health Check in April 2013 there was considerable variation across the country which meant that local programmes were at different stages of implementation.

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<sup>1</sup> Jane Ellison MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health, Checking the Nation's Health, The Value of Scrutiny, Centre for Public Scrutiny, February 2014

5. Current Figures available on the NHS Health Check website shows the number of people offered a NHS Health Check in this area and the levels of take up.<sup>2</sup>

### 2014-15

	Hartlepool	Middlesbrough	Stockton on Tees
Total eligible population 2014-15	22,934	36,266	50,070
Number of People offered a NHS Health Check	1,484 (6.5% of the eligible population)	2,301 (6.3%)	3,861 (7.7%)
Number of people that received a NHS Health Check	460 (2% of the eligible population)	857 (2.4%)	973 (1.9%)
Percentage of people that received an NHS Health Check of those offered.	31%	37.2%	25.2%

6. Although not intending to be an exhaustive list of questions, the panel may wish to focus their questioning on the following areas:
- What is the NHS Health Check programme, why, how and where do they happen and what are the intended positive benefits?
  - How does take up compare with other local authorities, especially regionally?
  - Do we need to increase take up and if so how?
  - Are there any barriers to take up and has it reached the people it is intended to?
  - What support to GP practices receive to help achieve targets?
  - What impacts have been observed?
  - Does the programme work with national/local charities with specific focus on the health conditions the programme seeks to prevent in order to utilise that specialist knowledge?
  - Do people have access to the information and advice services that can support them, eg smoking cessation, healthy diet and weight management and access to leisure services etc.

### Further Information

7. Further information is attached at Appendix 2 – **NHS Health Check Frequently Asked Questions**. This report outlines what the NHS Health Check is, local government’s responsibilities and some areas of questioning.
8. Appendix 3 – **Checking the Nation’s Health – The Value of Council Scrutiny** which outlines the Centre for Public Scrutiny’s document which again provides further information on the NHS Health Check and has some specific questions for scrutiny committees to use when carrying out a review on this topic.

<sup>2</sup> NHS Health Check Data website

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

9. That the panel note the presentation and agree if they require any further information on this subject.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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