

# MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 6

## HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

25 JULY 2016

### HEALTH INEQUALITIES

- **Cancer Screening and Reducing Cancer Related Deaths**

#### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To present the committee with an outline of the meeting and introduce a number of professionals who are in attendance to provide evidence.

#### BACKGROUND

2. In 2015/16 the panel began a review into health inequalities in respect of reducing cancer related deaths and improving cancer screening. The panel learnt that the number of deaths from cancer in Middlesbrough was above the national average and there were ten wards, located in east and central Middlesbrough, where there were significantly more cancer cases than the England average.
3. As there was a decreasing trend in some cancers nationally, the panel wanted to investigate the following:
  - a. The current causes, trends and patterns relating to incidences of cancer in Middlesbrough.
  - b. Why deaths from cancer are higher in Middlesbrough than the England average?
  - c. How lifestyle factors affecting people in Middlesbrough can increase people's chances of developing cancer?
  - d. How uptake in the levels of people attending screening can be improved?
  - e. What is being done to raise awareness of the early signs and symptoms of cancer?
4. Members will recall that the panel received information from NHS England on the current picture in terms of uptake rates and targets for cervical, breast and bowel screening and how we compare nationally. The presentation also provided details of how the screening programmes were run, how often people needed to go and the accessibility of screening in terms of location and opening times?

5. Members were informed about the various targeted public awareness campaigns and the pilot programmes which had been and were taking place in order to improve screening take up. The South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) also attended to inform Members about the work included in their Clear and Credible Plan to tackle cancer in the South Tees area. Members heard about the Deep End project which aimed to tackle inequalities as it was recognised that needs and consultations in deprived wards were multifaceted and complex. Nine GP practices in Middlesbrough's most deprived wards were working together to achieve better services for patients and better support to GPs.

### **The Macmillan Integration of Cancer Care Programme**

6. Members had been informed about the excellent work that was being done through the Macmillan Integration of Cancer Care Programme. Members were then keen to find out more about the work that was being undertaken on cancer pathways. At this meeting Members will meet with representatives from the Programme to hear about the new and innovative ways of working associated with this programme. Members will receive an outline of the programme, including the targeted work and the reasons behind that work. Details will also be given about the self-referral and open access initiatives taken place in the area of lung cancer. As the programme is an end-to-end pathway covering everything from pre-diagnosis to end of life care, Members will also be informed about the on-going work with survivors, dealing with issues such as employability and recurrence. Work which also involves working with partners in this area.
7. Following the meeting there will be the opportunity to tour the Chemotherapy Day unit and the Endeavour unit to see the facilities there and speak to some of the clinical staff who have been involved in the Programme. It is hoped that there will also be the possibility of talking to some of the newly recruited staff including the Cancer Care Coordinators who are employed to specifically support patients through their diagnosis and treatment journey.

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

8. The following people will be in attendance at the meeting
  - a. Carol Taylor, Macmillan Programme Manager, Macmillan Integration of Cancer Care Programme, South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust
  - b. Angela Wood, Macmillan Programme Sponsor, Consultant Haematologist and Chief of Specialty Medicine, South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

9. That the panel notes the information submitted at the meeting today and discusses whether any further information/evidence is needed on this topic, prior to the production of a Final Report.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- a) No background papers were used in this report.

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