

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD
14 DECEMBER 2004**

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL PROGRESS REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Overview & Scrutiny Board on the progress of the Health Scrutiny Panel.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Overview & Scrutiny Board notes the contents of this report

3.0 PROGRESS

- 3.1 Since the last Progress Report was submitted, the Panel have met to consider the evidence gathered in the Healthy Living Review, particularly the evidence gathered at the Healthy Living Seminar on 15 November 2004, which was a very successful event.
- 3.2 The Panel were of the view that they had gathered sufficient evidence to commence in the compilation of the final report. The Panel, however, felt that before it did this, it would be useful to discuss their findings with the Mayor and Prof. Peter Kelly, Director of Public Health at Middlesbrough Primary Care Trust. Officers are in the process of arranging this meeting.
- 3.3 At that same meeting the Panel established its terms of reference for a review into Emergency Admissions at James Cook University Hospital. The terms of reference are fundamentally aimed at investigating why levels of emergency admissions sit at their current levels, ascertaining what the pressures are on Emergency services and avenues for reducing stress on Emergency Medicine provision.
- 3.4 At the same meeting, the Panel considered the scrutiny review request from a Non Executive Member around the subject of a ban on smoking in enclosed public places. The Overview & Scrutiny Board referred the matter to the

Health Scrutiny Panel on 16 November 2004. The Panel considered that the topic was one of great importance and were pleased that it had been brought up.

- 3.5 The Panel felt the most appropriate way of dealing with the matter was to wait until the Executive had produced their work into the topic and comment on that.
- 3.6 As Members are aware, Middlesbrough Councillors are also part of the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Committee. The Joint Committee is about to commence a review into the suitability of proposals from the Tees & North East Yorkshire NHS Trust to develop its facilities. This is known as a statutory consultation, under section 7 of the Health & Social Care Act 2001. The Trust provides services for a significant number of residents from the County Durham region, specifically Easington. As a result of this, Members from County Durham will be involved with the scrutiny as equal partners.
- 3.7 The Joint Committee will also be required to consider the Tees Review, although we are still currently waiting to be advised by the County Durham & Tees Valley Strategic Health Authority as to when the formal section 7 consultation will commence.
- 3.8 Comments of non-executive Members, responding to a Home Office consultation on prostitution, have been forwarded. They were fed through the crime & disorder researcher, who collated all partnership responses and prepared a written report in consultation with the prostitution task group chair. The completed report was sent to the crime & disorder chair. Copies of the completed response are to be distributed soon.

4.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

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