

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD
8 FEBRUARY 2005**

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To update the Overview and Scrutiny Board on the progress of the Health Scrutiny Panel.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board notes the information provided.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

3. Since the last Panel update to the OSB, the Panel has completed a Review and has commenced with another Review. On 12 January 2005, the Panel held a meeting with Professor Peter Kelly, Director of Public Health, at Middlesbrough Primary Care Trust and the Mayor, Ray Mallon.
4. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the flavour of the evidence gathered so far in the Healthy Living Review and to discuss some of the Review's outline conclusions, giving the witnesses a chance to debate the topic further. The meeting was successful in achieving this and consequently a final report is currently being drafted and will be completed imminently.
5. As outlined above, the Panel has commenced a Review into another topic, namely emergency admissions at James Cook University Hospital. The Panel held a meeting on 21 December 2004 with Directors from the South Tees Hospital's NHS Trust, which manages the hospital. The purpose of the meeting was to set the terms of reference for the Review and to have the scene set on the topic of Emergency Admissions by the Directors from the Trust.

6. The information presented to Members by the Trust has significantly informed the direction of the Review and the Panel has accepted an invitation from the Trust to visit the Emergency Medicine facilities at the James Cook University Hospital to contextualise the Review. That visit will take place on 16 February 2005.
7. Prior to this visit, it is anticipated that the Panel will hold a further meeting in the Emergency Admissions Review to receive more evidence from a representative of the local Health Economy.
8. The Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee is currently engaged in a section 7 consultation with the TNEY Trust regarding its 'Advance' proposals for change. The Committee also involves Councillors from County Durham, as the services at hand impact on Durham residents.
9. So far, Members have heard from the TNEY Trust, the County Durham & Tees Valley Strategic Health Authority, the TNEY Patients Forum, MIND and a representative from the National Service Framework Local Implementation Team. There are further meetings scheduled to hear from User/Carer Groups and to talk to the Trust again. It is anticipated that a final report will be produced in March.
10. Further to the above, the Middlesbrough & Eston Health Scrutiny Joint Committee met on 24 January 2005. It agreed a way forward in considering sexual health services and to meet quarterly to this end. The Joint Committee also received information pertaining to the current financial situation with the South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

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