

AGENDA ITEM: 9 (e)

## OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

29 NOVEMBER 2005

### HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL: UPDATE

#### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To advise the OSB of the progress of the Health Scrutiny function.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the Joint Committee notes the progress of the Health Scrutiny function.
3. That the OSB takes a view on how to elicit a Council response to the consultation, which is separate and distinct from any Scrutiny Final Report.

#### CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

4. Middlesbrough Council is currently part of a Joint Scrutiny Committee, which is in the process of conducting a Review into the Acute Services Proposals, following a report from Professor Sir Ara Darzi.
5. The Proposals which are currently being consulted on, pertain to hospital based services, which are based in the Tees Valley, although also affect residents from North Yorkshire and parts of County Durham.
6. The Joint Scrutiny Committee, is therefore, made up of Members from Middlesbrough (Chair), Hartlepool (Vice Chair), Durham, North Yorkshire, Redcar & Cleveland & Stockton.
7. The exact content of the proposals is fairly complex and lengthy<sup>1</sup>, although a ver brief summary is laid out overleaf.
8. The Proposals affect four hospitals. They are

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<sup>1</sup> You can get a copy of the Consultation Document & Professor Darzi's final report at [www.countydurhamandteesvalley.nhs.uk](http://www.countydurhamandteesvalley.nhs.uk)

- a) The University Hospital of North Tees (UHNT)
- b) The University Hospital of Hartlepool (UHH)
- c) The James Cook University Hospital (JCUH)
- d) The Friarage Hospital, Northallerton (FHN)

9. In so far as the UHNT goes, the following is proposed.

- 9.1 It should become the main centre north of the Tees for emergency surgery with expanded intensive care facilities
- 9.2 Continue to provide a full accident and emergency service and hospital based medical care.
- 9.3 Become a significant centre for complex surgery by developing a North Tees Complex Surgical Centre, providing upper gastro intestinal cancer services (for patients with gullet and stomach cancer), vascular surgery (for patients with artery and vein problems) in a network with the JCUH. A network is where doctors and other health professionals from different organisations work together to share skills and expertise.
- 9.4 Create an endo-luminal vascular service for patients who have vein and artery problems which can be treated without the need for an operation.
- 9.5 Open a 24-hour midwife led maternity unit.
- 9.6 Provide a paediatric day unit and overnight nurse led service for children.

10. The following is proposed for the UHH:

- 10.1 Continue to provide a consultant-led accident & emergency service and hospital-based care medical & critical care
- 10.2 Host a new Centre of Excellence in Women's & Children's Services including consultant led maternity, planned gynaecology, breast surgery, emergency paediatric medical treatment, and planned children's operations
- 10.3 Increase the range of planned operations it carries out – particularly bone operations like hip and knee replacements

11. The JCUH should:

- 11.1 Keep its full range of district hospital services and specialist services. The proposed move of gastro-intestinal cancer services to the UHNT will free up some capacity at the JCUH.

12. The FHN:

- 12.1 Work should also be stepped up on making full use of the FHN.

13. The Joint Scrutiny Committee, following its evidence gathering will produce a consensus led final report in mid January.

14. Nonetheless, the matter is today placed in front of the OSB to be debated and to ensure that the scrutiny function within Middlesbrough Council is fully appraised of the proposal's ramifications for the town.
15. Further to that, the OSB is encouraged to consider whether it would like to refer the matter to the Executive, so a corporate position on the Proposals can be reached. It is anticipated that such a corporate position would be Executive led and therefore separate and distinct from any scrutiny perspective, expressed in the Final Report.
16. On a different note, the Health Scrutiny Panel is currently drafting a Final Report into Tobacco Control in Enclosed Public Places and the Middlesbrough & Eston Health Scrutiny Joint Committee is due to take further evidence on the topic of Respite & Palliative Children's Services.

**COUNCILLOR EDDIE DRYDEN  
CHAIR, HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL**

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

9. Please see Consultation document 'The Right Treatment, in the Right Place at the Right Time'. Copies can be found at [www.countydurhamandteesvalley.nhs.uk](http://www.countydurhamandteesvalley.nhs.uk) or from the Scrutiny Support Team.

### **Contact Officer:**

Jon Ord - Scrutiny Support Officer  
Telephone: 01642 729706 (direct line)  
Email: [jon\\_ord@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:jon_ord@middlesbrough.gov.uk)