

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD
28 FEBRUARY 2006**

**ACUTE SERVICES REVIEW – FINAL REPORT OF THE JOINT
SECTION 7 CONSULTATION COMMITTEE**

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To bring to the attention of the OSB, the Final Report of the Joint Section 7 Consultation Committee following the scrutiny of the Darzi proposals.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the OSB notes the content of the attached Final Report.
3. That the OSB endorses the conclusions and recommendations of the attached Final Report.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

4. The OSB will be aware that during the summer period of 2005, Professor Sir Ara Darzi published a report that made a number of recommendations in relation to acute services based across the Tees Valley.
5. The recommendations that Prof. Darzi made were then taken forward by the local NHS and formed the basis of a public consultation period that lasted from 23 September to 23 December.
6. As the Board will be aware, statute dictates that when the local NHS launches such a consultation, there is an express obligation upon the local NHS to consult with an appropriately constituted overview and scrutiny committee.
7. The proposals have a significant impact on a number of local authorities. Where this is the case, Directions from the Secretary of State dictate that a Joint Committee is established to scrutinise the proposals. In such cases, it is the Joint Committee that has the power to compel NHS attendance and issue final reports.

8. Consequently, a Joint Scrutiny Committee was formulated which took evidence from a wide range of stakeholders and has prepared and agreed the attached Final Report.
9. Whilst the OSB is not able to change the content of the Final Report, due to its joint committee authorship, the OSB is asked to consider the Final Report and endorse its conclusions and recommendations.
10. The local NHS met on 14 February 2006 to consider the Final Report, together with other documents pertinent to the Acute Services proposals.
11. The Joint Scrutiny Committee will receive a formal response to the Final Report from the local NHS by 8 March 2006. The contents of that response will dictate the course of action taken by the Joint Scrutiny Committee.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

10. Please see attached Final Report.

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