

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

30 MAY 2006

HEALTH SCRUTINY UPDATE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To update the Overview & Scrutiny Board of the progress of the Health Scrutiny function.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the Overview & Scrutiny Board notes the progress of the Health Scrutiny function.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

3. Since the last update to the Overview & Scrutiny Board, the Health Scrutiny function has been active in pursuing a number of matters relevant to the local health economy.
4. The Section 7 Joint Consultation Committee met on 15 May 2006 to take the last information requested with relation to the Acute Services proposals. There are two elements of the proposals that the Joint Committee, at this stage remains in opposition to. They are pertaining to maternity services and paediatrics services.
5. The Joint Scrutiny Committee effectively has two options open to it. It can either decide to refer those above elements of the proposals to the Secretary of State for Health for determination, or agree to their implementation.
6. The Joint Scrutiny Committee is scheduled to meet on 1 June 2006. At that meeting, the Joint Scrutiny Committee will consider all of the evidence it has gathered and its subsequent discussions with the local NHS. Following that, it is anticipated that the Joint Scrutiny Committee will take a final position on whether it wishes to refer the disputed elements of the proposals to the Secretary of State for Health, or express its support for the proposals being implemented.

7. The Middlesbrough Health Scrutiny Panel was scheduled to hold a meeting on 23 May 2006. The purpose of the meeting was to gather final pieces of evidence in the Out of Hours review. It is anticipated that the Final Report will be produced as soon as is possible. The panel will soon be considering work programme topics for the 2006/7 municipal year.
8. The Middlesbrough & Eston Health Scrutiny Joint Committee was due to meet on 26 May 2006. The purpose of that meeting was to receive final pieces of evidence in relation to the Joint Committee's review into Palliative and Respite services for children. It is anticipated that a final report will be produced shortly.
9. The OSB's attention is also drawn to the fact that the Secretary of State for Health has made a final decision on the configuration of Primary Care Trusts across the Tees Valley. It has been decided by the Secretary of State that there will be PCTs across the Tees Valley, which are coterminous with local authority boundaries. This is as opposed to a Tees Valley wide PCT.

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

Contact Officer:

Jon Ord - Scrutiny Support Officer

Telephone: 01642 729706 (direct line)

Email: jon_ord@middlesbrough.gov.uk