

AGENDA ITEM: 9(e)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

17 OCTOBER 2006

OUT OF HOURS REVIEW – FURTHER EVIDENCE FROM MIDDLESBROUGH PRIMARY CARE TRUST

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To appraise Members of 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. The Health Scrutiny Panel is continuing with its review into Healthcare Associated Infections. It held a very useful meeting on 28 September 2006, where the Panel discussed the management of cleaning arrangements for James Cook University Hospital with senior managerial and clinical staff.
4. At the next meeting, the Panel will discuss with representatives of the South Tees Trust, the outcome of a recent Department of Health visit in respect of MRSA rates. It will also be taking evidence from Middlesbrough PCT on the matter. The Panel will also consider a response to the Regional Alcohol Statement of Priorities, co-ordinated by Government Office North East.
5. The Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee is due to meet on 23 October 2006, where it will discuss the direction in which it would like to take forward its consideration of the *Our Health, Our Care, Our Say* White Paper. At that meeting, the Joint Scrutiny Committee is also receiving information about the upcoming tendering process for Out of Hours Dental Services across the Tees Valley. The Joint Scrutiny Committee will be invited to consider how it would like to advance its involvement with this process.

6. The Middlesbrough & Eston Health Scrutiny Joint Committee met on 29 September 2006, to consider the evidence it has gathered to date in its review into Palliative & Respite Services for children. Members felt that one more meeting to consider recent debate about the funding of hospices was required. Following that, a final report will be produced.
7. In relation to Acute Services Proposals, the Joint Scrutiny Committee has been notified that the Independent Reconfiguration Panel has received terms of reference for their work from the Department of Health. As expected those terms of reference centre on the disputed areas of paediatrics and maternity, with a deadline to report back to the Department of Health by 18 December 2006.
8. In addition, the requested briefing paper on the future Patient & Public Involvement Framework in health, will be presented at the November meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Board. This is due to the fact that the Chair is unavailable to attend today's meeting.

Councillor Eddie Dryden
Chair, Health Scrutiny Panel

BACKGROUND PAPERS

9. No background papers were used in the production of this report.

Contact Officer:

Jon Ord - Scrutiny Support Officer

Telephone: 01642 729706 (direct line)

Email: jon_ord@middlesbrough.gov.uk