

AGENDA ITEM:

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD**

**14 NOVEMBER 2006**

**HEALTH SCRUTINY UPDATE**

**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. In its meetings scheduled for 8 & 29 November, the Panel is due to 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 Healthcare Facilities Management Association has also been invited to provide evidence. The Panel is also moving towards its consideration of the next work programme topic, *Choose & Book*. That topic's consideration will commence with a seminar scheduled for 15 November 2006.
5. The Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee met on 23 October 2006, where it discussed the direction in which it would like to take forward its consideration of the *Our Health, Our Care, Our Say* White Paper. The Joint Scrutiny Committee resolved to concentrate on a few elements on the White Paper, with a work schedule to be prepared in due course. At that meeting, the Joint Scrutiny Committee also received information about the upcoming tendering process for Out of Hours Dental Services across the Tees Valley.

The Joint Scrutiny Committee will play a part in the provider selection process and continue to monitor the implementation of the Out of Hours Dental Service.

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 the recent debate about the funding of hospices and hear about corporate procurement strategies was required. That meeting was due to occur on 7 November 2006. 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.

**Councillor Eddie Dryden**  
**Chair, Health Scrutiny Panel**

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

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