

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD**

**12 DECEMBER 2006**

**HEALTH SCRUTINY UPDATE**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

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

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

**CONSIDERATION OF REPORT**

3. The Health Scrutiny Panel is heading towards the end of its review into Healthcare Associated Infections. The Panel held a very interesting meeting with the PCT on 29 November 2006, to gather their views on the matter, as a vital element of the local health economy. The Panel heard the PCT's views from its dual role as a commissioner and provider of local health services. The Panel is due to hold one more meeting with the South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust, ahead of producing a final report into the matter.
4. The Health Scrutiny Panel also held a seminar (15 November 2006) on the topic of *Choose & Book*, which is an important element of the patient choice agenda. It is remodelling the way in which patients are referred from primary care into secondary care to see consultants. The purpose of the seminar was to raise awareness, ahead of the Panel considering the matter in closer detail. The seminar was very well attended, by people from a wide range of perspectives. The purpose of the review will be to consider the extent to which *Choose & Book* has been rolled out across Middlesbrough and the impact it is having on the health services Middlesbrough residents access.
5. The Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee continues to consider the "*Our Health, Our Care, Our Say*" Health White Paper and its ramifications for health service configuration in the Tees Valley. As a result of this, the Joint Scrutiny Committee is hosting a seminar on 18 December to consider the most important questions for the Members of the Joint Scrutiny Committee, in

relation to the implications of the White Paper. The seminar is being led by a senior lecturer in Health & Social Care Policy at the Health Services Management Centre, at the University of Birmingham. It is hoped that the seminar will develop the Members understanding of the major issues, ahead of likely NHS consultations on the configuration of local health services. It is expected that this work will continue into early 2007.

6. The Middlesbrough & Eston Health Scrutiny Joint Committee is looking to arrange a meeting in early 2007 to consider emerging national policy and agree the text of a final report.
7. On the subject of the Acute Services Proposals, the Independent Reconfiguration Panel has visited the area and is obliged to report to the Secretary of State by 18 December 2006. The Panel was very complimentary of the Joint Scrutiny Committee's process and Final Report into the Proposals.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

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

### **Contact Officer:**

Jon Ord - Scrutiny Support Officer

Telephone: 01642 729706 (direct line)  
Email: jon\_ord@middlesbrough.gov.uk