

AGENDA ITEM: 8(e)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

6 FEBRUARY 2007

HEALTH SCRUTINY UPDATE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To update the OSB on the progress of the Health Scrutiny function.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

3. It has been an active few weeks for Health Scrutiny in Middlesbrough and the wider Tees Valley. The Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) has published its report into the Acute Services Proposals, following the referral to the Secretary of State for Health by the Joint Scrutiny Committee, which can be found at www.irpanel.org.uk
4. The Secretary of State for Health has announced her support for the proposals, which would see short term concentration of consultant led maternity and paediatrics at University Hospital of North Tees, before a new single site hospital is built to serve the communities north of the river. The concept of a single site for north of the river was not part of the Acute Services Proposals and therefore not on the table to be scrutinised. Nonetheless, it was a theme that the Joint Scrutiny Committee repeatedly came across and unanimously felt obliged to report on the level of support for such a scheme. It would appear that during the course of its investigation, the IRP came across the same level of feeling. It is understood that plans to develop the new hospital will start very soon, whilst the interim measure relating to maternity and paediatrics are implemented.
5. The Health Scrutiny Panel has concluded the evidence gathering process for the reviews into Healthcare Associated Infections and the introduction of

Choose & Book. Both Final Reports are currently in the process of being finalised and will be presented to the next meeting of the OSB.

6. The Middlesbrough & Eston Health Scrutiny Joint Committee held its final evidence gathering session on 24 January 2007 into respite and palliative services. The meeting concentrated on the procurement strategies and the relationship with the Voluntary & Community Sector. A Final Report is currently being prepared.
7. The Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee is due to meet on 1 February 2007. This meeting will consider how the Joint Scrutiny Committee would like to proceed, following its in depth consideration of the White Paper *Our Health, Our Care, Our Say*. The OSB will be updated on the outcome of that meeting at today's meeting.

Councillor E. Dryden
Chair, Health Scrutiny Panel

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

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