

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

5 JUNE 2007

PATHWAYS TO HEALTHCARE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To introduce the topic of *Pathways to Healthcare* to the Overview & Scrutiny Board.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the OSB notes the content of the report and agrees to receive updates on the topic as and when appropriate.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

3. Members of the OSB will recall that in 2005/6/7, the Health Scrutiny function within Middlesbrough was involved in a Joint Scrutiny Committee, to consider a set of proposals known as the Acute Services proposals.
4. These proposals concerned a number of areas of clinical activity across the Tees Valley. A Joint Scrutiny Committee, representing six local authorities, considered the proposals by going through a very intensive and comprehensive evidence gathering process.
5. Following that scrutiny process, the Joint Scrutiny Committee arrived at a view that it was supportive of elements of the proposals, although did not agree with the proposals pertaining to maternity and paediatric services.
6. Following discussions with the local NHS in relation to maternity and paediatric services, the Joint Scrutiny Committee took the decision to refer the matter to the Secretary of State for Health for determination, under its statutory powers.
7. The Secretary of State for Health referred the matter to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP), to be investigated and reported back upon.

8. The IRP conducted a comprehensive investigation into the issues involved, visited the area on more than one occasion and spoke to a considerable number of people.
9. Its published report contains a number of recommendations, the most high profile being that there should be a new build hospital for the north of Tees area, housing a number of specialisms for the whole of Tees.
10. The design and construction of a new build hospital north of the Tees is a fundamental development in the history of the local NHS and as such promises to be a necessarily complex and involved process.
11. The purpose of this paper is to bring to the attention of the OSB, the recently published *Roadmap to New Hospital, Primary and Community Services and Facilities for Teesside*. The document is attached and as such, it is not proposed to repeat its contents in this covering report. Nonetheless, the document sets out the direction of the project and gives some ideas on proposed timeframes. It is anticipated that this project will require substantial involvement from Health Scrutiny over its various phases. According to the timeframe in the document, we are presently in the first phase of five.
12. It is suggested that the OSB notes the content of the attached documents and agrees to be updated on any project developments when appropriate.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

13. Please find the attached document *Pathways to Healthcare*.

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Chair, Health Scrutiny Panel**

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