

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

20 NOVEMBER 2007

**NORTH EAST AMBULANCE SERVICE
PROPOSALS FOR AMBULANCE CONTACT CENTRES**

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To introduce representatives from the North East Ambulance Service (NEAS), in attendance at today's meeting to discuss proposals for ambulance contact centres in the North East of England.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That Members note the content of the presentation delivered by NEAS and ask any questions felt pertinent to the above topic.
3. That the OSB considers its position on the proposals, to be reported back to the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

4. At a meeting of the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee on 29 October 2007, it considered a presentation from NEAS over its plans for ambulance contact centres. The Joint Scrutiny Committee decided that the matter should be referred to its constituent authorities, for a view to be taken on the proposals. Those views will then be fed into the Joint Scrutiny Committee, which will co-ordinate a response to the statutory consultation, which closes on 11 January 2008.
5. It is to this end that NEAS representatives will be in attendance at today's meeting. A copy of the NEAS consultation document is appended and as such, it is not proposed to repeat the contents of that document in this brief covering report.
6. It is anticipated that NEAS representatives will speak to the consultation paper, before the meeting opening out into a debate type format.

7. Following the discussion at today's meeting, the OSB is asked to consider its position on the proposals, so they may be fed into the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

8. Please see attached paper NEAS consultation paper.

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