

AGENDA ITEM: 9(e)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

18 DECEMBER 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. The Health Scrutiny function has been very active in the last month or so. On 19 November 2007, the Health Scrutiny Panel hosted a roundtable debate on the future of cardiovascular services in Middlesbrough, with a number of local stakeholders in attendance. A DRAFT Final Report has now being prepared and it is anticipated that it will be presented to the OSB on 15 January 2008. The next topic to be considered is Patient Transport following discharge.
4. The Panel, on 30 October, also held a special meeting to receive an update on Healthcare Associated Infections at James Cook University Hospital. The Panel published a Final Report into Healthcare Associated Infections in March 2007, which made a series of recommendations. One of those recommendations centred around the Health Scrutiny Panel receiving regular updates on performance against Healthcare Associated Infections at James Cook University Hospital. The Panel will be holding a further update meeting, open to all Members, in April next year.
5. The Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee met on 29 October, to hear about proposals for changes to contact centres for the North East Ambulance Service, following which the matter was discussed by the OSB on 20 November 2007. The OSB's view was due to be fed into the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee on 10 December 2007, to enable a response to the consultation to be prepared. The matter was also due to be laid before Executive on 11 December 2007 to ensure the Executive is made aware of

the relevant issues. At its meeting on 10 December 2007, the Joint Scrutiny Committee also received a briefing on the progress towards the establishment of the Middlesbrough Local Involvement Network (LINKs), and the process to procure a host to support it. LINKs will replace Patient Forums and will have a mandate over all Health & Social Care services provided for local people.

6. The Joint Scrutiny Committee also met on 21 November 2007. This was to consider a report from the National Blood Service and a briefing paper from the Neurological Alliance on the National Service Framework implementation for Long Term Neurological Conditions in the Tees Valley. These matters are to be considered in further detail early in the New Year.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

7. No background papers were used preparing this report.

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