

AGENDA ITEM: 8(e)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

15 JANUARY 2008

HEALTH SCRUTINY UPDATE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To update the Overview & Scrutiny Board (OSB) on the progress of the Health Scrutiny function.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the OSB notes the progress made by the Health Scrutiny function.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

3. As the OSB will be aware, the Health Scrutiny Panel has produced a Final Report following its review into Life Expectancy with a particular focus on cardiovascular disease (CVD). That report is elsewhere on the agenda for today's meeting.
4. The Panel's next topic for investigation will be Patient Transport to and from James Cook University Hospital. The Panel has decided to conduct that review in a single meeting, with all relevant people in attendance. It is anticipated that witnesses will produce briefing papers on a series of themes set by the Panel, speak to those papers briefly and the meeting will then open out into a wider debate, with a Final Report flowing from this meeting.
5. The OSB may also have seen recent publicity around audiology services and waiting times for hearing aids. The Panel has also decided to take this matter up and has delegated authority to the Chair to proceed with investigations, ahead of feeding back to the Panel and a Final Report being produced on that matter.
6. The Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee is scheduled to meet on 22 January 2008, where it will receive an update on Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) and information it has requested on Cancer Screening Services across Tees and associated data pertaining to take up of such services. The

Joint Scrutiny Committee is also due to consider neurological services in across Tees early in 2008. It has also received a request that it considers issues around paramedic and ambulance operation, a decision on which will be taken at its meeting on 22 January 2008.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

7. No background papers were used in the production of this paper.

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Chair, Health Scrutiny Panel

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