

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

12 FEBRUARY 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. The Health Scrutiny Panel has recently agreed its Final Report into Life Expectancy, with a particular focus upon Cardiovascular Disease. The Panel is currently awaiting the formal response from Middlesbrough PCT and South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust.
4. The Panel has also commenced its consideration of two new topics. The Panel was scheduled to meet on 11 February 2008 to receive evidence from the Council's Department of Social Care, Middlesbrough PCT and South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust in relation to Patient Transport to and from James Cook University Hospital. It is anticipated that following that meeting, a Final Report will be drafted.
5. The Panel has also delegated authority to the Chair of the Health Scrutiny Panel to conduct a piece of work, investigating present waiting times for audiology services provided to residents of Middlesbrough. Visits to Middlesbrough Deaf Centre (with the assistance of a sign interpreter) were scheduled for 6th and 8th February to speak with groups about their experiences of audiology services. Following that, a meeting is scheduled for 21 February 2008 with PCT and South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust representation, where the perspective of the local NHS will be considered, in addition to any views put forward at the Deaf Centre. It is anticipated that following this meeting, a Final Report will be produced.

6. The Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee was scheduled to meet on 6 February 2008, where a briefing was arranged from the local NHS in relation to Momentum: Pathways to Healthcare, which will form a statutory consultation in the summer/early autumn period 2008. The OSB has been briefed previously on the matter, which is primarily concerned with developing a new hospital, primary and community facilities for Teesside, with specific reference to the North of Tees area. It is, however, anticipated that proposals put out to statutory consultation will also have ramifications for the south of Tees area and will necessitate Elected Member involvement from Middlesbrough.
7. The Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee is also scheduled to meet on 25 February 2008, to hear about the North East Ambulance Service's use of Rapid Response vehicles and how they complement traditional ambulances. It will also consider plans for NHS Direct to become a Foundation Trust and the upcoming service development plans of the Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Trust.
8. Thought it also being given to South of Tees Health Scrutiny, with colleagues at Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council and how the upcoming plans for Community Foundation Trust status can be considered by the Scrutiny process.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

**COUNCILLOR EDDIE DRYDEN
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