

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

11 MARCH 2008

HEALTH SCRUTINY UPDATE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To update the Overview & Scrutiny Board regarding 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 Panel's Final Report into Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) was considered by the Middlesbrough PCT Board, on 27 February 2008. The Board debated the Final Report at some length and was complimentary about the report's attention to detail and the key messages it attempts to highlight. A formal response is expected soon and will be presented to the Council's Executive.
4. The Panel continues with its investigations into Patient Transport to and from James Cook University Hospital, which was first considered at a meeting on 11 February and audiology services for people in Middlesbrough. The Panel has a meeting scheduled for later in March, which will progress work in relation to these two subject areas. It is expected that Final Reports on the topics will be produced shortly.
5. The Panel was also due to meet on 5 March 2008, to consider the Health implications of the DRAFT Local Area Agreement. It is anticipated that the outcome of that discussion will be fed into today's meeting. The Panel is also due to consider Middlesbrough PCT's Annual Healthcheck declaration of compliance against the core standards. The Panel is also intending to hold a seminar, focussing upon the increased central government emphasis being placed on the concept of PCTs becoming 'World Class Commissioners', to investigate what this would mean for Middlesbrough.

6. The Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee has been very active recently. It has considered the topic of *Momentum: Pathways to Healthcare*, which is a programme designed to deliver the recommendations of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel around a new build hospital for North of Tees. This matter will be subject to a statutory consultation in June 2008, for the local authorities north of the river to scrutinise. There will be a further period of statutory consultation later in 2008 or early 2009 which will focus upon Tees wide specialised services, which will necessitate Middlesbrough's involvement in the scrutiny of those proposals.
7. The Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee is also due to consider a number of issues later this month including Neurology Services, Mental Health & Learning Disability service direction, proposed changes to the management of NHS Direct and Ambulance Contact Centres.
8. National policy is also moving towards the separation of PCT as commissioner and service provider functions. As a result, the community services directorate of each PCT will become a standalone organisation, known as a Community Foundation Trust. Preliminary work around this has started within PCTs and it is proposed that the South Tees Joint Scrutiny Committee should consider the matter, to be kept under a watching brief and to scrutinise a statutory consultation when appropriate.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

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Chair, Health Scrutiny Panel

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