

AGENDA ITEM: 8(e)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

10 MARCH 2009

HEALTH SCRUTINY UPDATE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To update the Overview & Scrutiny Board 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 Panel has considered a number of topics since the last update. The Panel has recently received a positive update on Audiology Services, following its review of the matter during the municipal year of 2007/8. More detail is available in a report elsewhere on today's agenda.
4. The Panel has also considered an update on Patient Transport to and from James Cook University Hospital, following its review and subsequent final report, published in summer 2008. The Panel felt that whilst some progress seems to have been made, it has asked for a further update in another six months. It is anticipated that by this point, some of the organisational initiatives undertaken will have had an effect on frontline transport services.
5. The Panel also continues to progress its review into Practice Based Commissioning and its impact on services in Middlesbrough. The Panel has now heard from the PCT and a lead GP in the Practice Based Commissioning initiative and has collected a great deal of information. The Panel is intending to hold one more meeting, in a roundtable format, to collect evidence from a variety of sources ahead of the production of a final report.
6. The Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee is moving towards the production of a final report into Cancer Screening services across Tees.

Some final evidence will be sought, ahead of a final report being produced and submitted to the NHS for response.

7. The Joint Scrutiny Committee continues to monitor the upcoming consultation around NEAS' Foundation Trust application. The Joint Scrutiny Committee has also been approached about being involved in the design and commissioning of sexual health services across Tees.

**Councillor Eddie Dryden
Chair, Health Scrutiny Panel**

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

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