

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

22 SEPTEMBER 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 Overview & Scrutiny Board notes the progress of the Health Scrutiny function.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

3. The Health Scrutiny Panel is moving towards the conclusion of its study into Stroke Services. The Panel has considered a great deal of evidence about Strokes and is now in the process of preparing a draft final report. That draft final report will be discussed at a meeting with all witnesses in invited to attend, ahead of the report being presented to OSB.
4. The Panel has also recently received an update on Patient Transport Services (PTS), following a review that the Panel undertook in 2007/8. Whilst it would appear that there remain arguably unnecessary complexities with booking PTS, the Panel was pleased to hear that PTS is now provided over a much greater part of the day and is no longer provided on a '9 to 5' basis. The Panel was especially pleased to see that the development of PTS has taken place in partnership with the local Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS), with the VCS being awarded contracts to provide PTS. Whilst the Panel is pleased with the progress made, it intends to engage with the PCT & NEAS further to discuss the process for booking PTS, hoping to bring it in line with areas of best practice.
5. The Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee last met on 14 September 2009, where it considered updates on developments in sexual health services

and out of hours services, which will require further Joint Scrutiny Committee involvement as the topics develop. The Joint Scrutiny Committee also considered a paper on Cancer Screening Services, which will soon be submitted to the local NHS for comment and consideration.

6. The South Tees Health Scrutiny Joint Committee is scheduled to meet on 24 September 2009, where it will begin to consider Community Foundation Trust status and what it may mean for the local NHS and the services it provides.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

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Chair, Health Scrutiny Panel**

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