

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD**

**20 OCTOBER 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 has recently received a detailed response from the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, following the Panel's investigation into parking charges at James Cook University Hospital. The detailed response is elsewhere on the agenda as a separate item.
4. The Panel is also working towards the completion of the Final Report into Stroke Services, which is currently in Draft form. The Panel is scheduled to meet on 22 October 2009 to discuss the DRAFT report and discuss its findings with *Positive Strokes*, which is a patient and carer support group. Following the Panel's discussion with Positive Strokes, the Panel will publish a final report.
5. The Panel has recently considered an update on Patient Transport Services, following the report that the Panel published during the 2007/8. The Panel was pleased to see that there has been significant progress in the development of patient transport services, particularly with local community sector organisations commissioned to provide patient transport services. Those transport services are now provided over much longer hours than previously, thereby also reducing the amount of money spent on private taxis. The Panel felt it was worth highlighting this point, as it represents significant progress. The update also covered the patient transport booking system

currently used in the Tees Valley and comparisons were drawn with the different system used in the North of Tyne area, which has a single booking system with one telephone number. In Middlesbrough, there is more than one telephone number to call, making it more complicated to book patient transport. The Panel hopes to progress this matter in the coming months and argue for a single Patient Transport booking line across Tees, similar to that which is in operation in other areas of the North East.

6. The Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee last met on 12 October 2009, when it considered a detailed update relating to the Momentum Pathways to Healthcare project. It also considered how best to advance a piece of work into Ambulance Service capacity across Tees, which will now be progressed.
7. The South Tees Health Scrutiny Joint Committee met on 24 September 2009, where it received information pertaining to the advent of a Community Foundation Trust in the South of Tees area. The Joint Scrutiny Committee will meet at appropriate junctures to review the progress of the Community Foundation Trust as it develops.
8. On 2 October 2009, the Children's Trust Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel held its first meeting. As an initial exercise, the Panel spoke at length with a Social Care lecturer from the University of Durham about the historical context and policy background to Children's Trusts. The meeting raised a number of key avenues of exploration for the Panel, which will be taken forward as the review progresses.

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

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

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