

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

17 NOVEMBER 2009

HEALTH SCRUTINY UPDATE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To advise the Overview & Scrutiny Board of the progress made by 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 recently completed its work into Stoke Services in Middlesbrough and the associated Final Report is elsewhere on today's agenda.
4. The Panel was scheduled to meet on 12 November 2009, where it was due to consider an update report on the progress of the compilation of needs analyses and the commissioning of mental health services for children and young people. This is a follow up to the Panel's 2008/9 review into Emotional Wellbeing & Mental Health, which had a specific chapter on children and young people. The Panel was also due to consider an update in relation to Healthcare Associated Infections at James Cook University Hospital, which is a regular item for the Panel to look at.
5. The Panel will now consider which topic it would like to investigate as its next work programme item.
6. The Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee was scheduled to meet on 16 November 2009, and was due to hear evidence from senior representatives of local PCTs in relation to the Joint Scrutiny Committee's interest in health outcomes across the Tees Valley. The Joint Scrutiny Committee was also scheduled to receive updates on the NEAS Contact

Centre implementation programme and developments to Sexual Health Services across Tees.

7. The Children's Trust Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel is scheduled to meet towards the end of November. At this meeting, it will receive detailed preliminary information as to the operation of the Children & Young People's Trust in Middlesbrough. This will complement the general briefing received by the Panel, from a specialist academic from the University of Durham, about the social and political context of Children's Trusts. Following that, it is expected that the Panel will speak with Children's Trust partners, with a programme of meetings being set by the Panel.
8. There is also an opportunity for Middlesbrough to get involved with a regional health scrutiny programme. The Centre for Public Scrutiny is offering funding through the 'Supporting Scrutiny' programme, for projects that look at Health Inequalities, as part of its Health Inequalities Scrutiny Programme.
9. Officers with a responsibility for Health Scrutiny around the region have identified a topic of possible enquiry, around the health needs of ex-servicemen. A submission is currently being worked upon, so the Centre for Public Scrutiny has something to consider. If the bid is successful, much more detailed conversation can take place, led by Members, about how the topic is advanced and how a regional scrutiny review would be managed.
10. If a bid to the Centre for Public Scrutiny was successful, Health Scrutiny within the North East would be granted 'Scrutiny Development Area status'. This would provide Elected Members with the opportunity to develop the idea of regional health scrutiny and funding to pilot a regional health scrutiny exercise.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

11. No background papers were used to prepare this report.

Contact Officer:

Jon Ord - Scrutiny Support Officer
Telephone: 01642 729706 (direct line)
Email: jon_ord@middlesbrough.gov.uk