

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

27 JULY 2010

HEALTH SCRUTINY UPDATE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To update the Overview & Scrutiny Board of 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 met on 16 July 2010, to receive evidence from NHS Middlesbrough, relating to their knowledge of, and views on, End of Life Care, as the principal commissioner of local health services. The Panel will now be pursuing further evidence on the topic of End of Life Care with the Department of Social Care, South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Middlesbrough & Redcar & Cleveland Community Services. The Panel will also be receiving evidence from the Butterwick Hospice and the Teesside Hospice Care Foundation.
4. The Health Scrutiny Panel also received information regarding access to and provision of Dental Services in Middlesbrough. On the basis of the evidence presented, it would appear that Middlesbrough fares very well for access to Dental Services, with NHS Middlesbrough being ranked as third out of 152 areas for ease of access and provision.
5. The Health Scrutiny Panel will also be spending some time considering the implications and meaning of the White Paper regarding the NHS. The White Paper, entitled *Equity & Excellence: Liberating the NHS*, will be the subject of a detailed discussion at a seminar hosted by the Panel on 10 September

2010, which all Councillors are invited to. The implications of the White Paper will inform the Panel's thinking from here onwards.

6. The Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee was due to meet on 19 July 2010, where its work programme was scheduled to be agreed. More information will be able to be provided to the OSB regarding the work programme at the meeting, as at the time of writing, the Joint Scrutiny Committee had not met.
7. The Regional Health Scrutiny project, around the health of, and health services for, the ex service community is making progress. The Physical Health Workstream, which Middlesbrough is leading, is due to meet representatives of the Strategic Health Authority on 28 July, ahead of meeting with the Royal British Legion in August. It is anticipated that a regional final report will be completed in December 2010.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

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Chair, Health Scrutiny Panel

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