



AGENDA ITEM: 11(e)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

7 DECEMBER 2010

HEALTH SCRUTINY UPDATE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To appraise 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 and endorses the proposed actions of the Health Scrutiny Panel.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

3. The Health Scrutiny Panel has recently completed a final report into End of Life Care in Middlesbrough, which is elsewhere on the agenda today. This has been a lengthy piece of work for the Panel, which makes a number of significant points about the development required in End of Life Care in Middlesbrough. Following consideration by the Overview & Scrutiny Board, the report will be submitted to the Executive and local NHS for formal responses to the report. The Panel has now moved on to considering the topic of Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults and particularly how the local NHS responds to the Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults agenda. Connected to this point, the Panel has proposed that a joint group, made up of Councillors from the Health Scrutiny Panel and the Social Care & Adult Services Scrutiny Panel consider the recent developments around the Mental Capacity Act. This will ensure that Elected Members can have a better understanding of how this impacts upon the delivery of Social and Health care. It is proposed to take this matter up swiftly if the Overview & Scrutiny Board is in agreement.
4. The Health Scrutiny Panel, at its last meeting, also received a request to consider the topic of whether Children's Centres are being told, with sufficient regularity and consistency, of the new births in their areas of

responsibility, which can then impact on the uptake of services for some children. The Panel agreed with that it was an important topic and expressed a strong interest in considering the matter fairly swiftly. The Panel is confident that it can be addressed in a single meeting, in addition to its scheduled work programme items. The Panel was keen to ensure that the Overview & Scrutiny Board was aware of the additional topic and is in approval of the Panel taking this matter up.

5. The Regional Health Scrutiny project, focussing upon the health of, and health services for, the ex-service community is progressing well. A draft final report is now in existence and is currently being further developed, before publication later this month or early in the new year.
6. The Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee continues with its work programme and is scheduled to meet on 13 December 2010 to further consider the capacity of Mental Health services across Tees, amongst other areas.
7. The South Tees Health Scrutiny Joint Committee is scheduled to meet in January 2011, to consider the progress of the Transforming Community Services agenda.
8. The Health Scrutiny Panel continues to monitor the national policy picture with relation to the White Paper and the subsequent Health Bill, which is yet to be released. The Health Scrutiny Panel will keep the Overview & Scrutiny Board apprised of any developments in this field.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

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