

## OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

23 AUGUST 2011

### HEALTH SCRUTINY UPDATE

#### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To update the Overview & Scrutiny Board of the progress made by 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 scheduled to meet on 24 August 2011, where it will consider two significant items. The first item is related to the Panel's study of Neurological Services. The Panel will be considering a report submitted by the North East Neurological Network (NENN), which will outline the NENN's initial views on current Neurological Services. It is anticipated that the NENN's evidence will raise a number of themes that the Panel will want to explore further, which will necessitate the involvement of various NHS organisations, as well as advocacy/patients groups. The Overview & Scrutiny Board will be updated as the Panel's consideration of Neurological Services progresses.
4. At the same meeting, the Panel will be considering an update on the local implementation, and local ramifications, of the Health Reforms. A great deal has happened at a national level regarding the reforms, since the Panel received its last update in March 2011. The Panel will be speaking with representatives from the Department of Social Care, the emerging Middlesbrough Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS Tees. The Panel has identified a particular set of questions it would like to explore, which will influence the direction of the debate. Those questions centre on matters such as the development of the Health & Wellbeing Board, the development of the Clinical Commissioning Group and how the relationship between the two is

developing. The Panel will consider whether it is satisfied with the progress made. If so, the Panel will schedule a further update for the Autumn 2011.

5. The Health Scrutiny Panel, in partnership with colleagues from the Social Care & Adult Services Scrutiny Panel, will be holding a seminar on 5 September 2011, which will focus upon the experience of vulnerable older people in care settings. The seminar will be the first step in a joint piece of work between the two Panels, which will investigate in detail how the local health and social care economy caters for the needs of vulnerable older people in care settings. The seminar will hear from a range of speakers and it is anticipated that it will raise a number of themes, that the Panels will want to explore in subsequent meetings. It is also anticipated that the Panels will establish terms of reference after having had the benefit of the seminar. All Members have been invited to attend.
6. The South Tees Health Scrutiny Joint Committee is scheduled to meet in September to begin to explore the budgetary position of the South Tees health economy and how the budget for 2012/13 is being established. The Joint Scrutiny Committee will also consider the progress of the assimilation of Community Services with the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. This was done within the context of the *Transforming Community Services* agenda.
7. The Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee will be meeting in September and work is currently ongoing to establish options for its work programme, to put before Members. Likely topics include Winter Flu Preparedness and the Tees wide dimensions of the Health reforms.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8. No background papers were used in the preparation of this paper.

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Chair, Health Scrutiny Panel**

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