

AGENDA ITEM: 8(e)

**HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL**

**18 OCTOBER 2011**

**HEALTH SCRUTINY PROGRESS UPDATE**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1. To update the Overview & Scrutiny Board (OSB) on the progress of 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 is progressing with its review into neurological services in Middlesbrough. It has heard from a number of organisations with an interest/role to play in the provision of Neurological Services and the Panel will soon be considering evidence from those with a statutory responsibility to plan and commission neurological services. The Panel has also recently considered the current performance of the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust relating to the incidence of Healthcare Associated Infections. It remains an overall positive picture. It does, however, remain a subject of ongoing interest for the Panel and updates will be sought at suitable future junctures.
4. The Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee has established its work programme for the year. It last met on 10 October where it considered a proposal for developments to Orthodontic Services, as well as the connected topics of winter preparedness and seasonal flu vaccinations. The Joint Scrutiny Committee was particularly interested to establish the capacity of health services to respond to winter pressures and the progress of efforts to ensure those eligible and 'at risk' receive the seasonal flu vaccine. This is a topic that the Joint Scrutiny Committee will keep under review as autumn gives way to winter.

5. The South Tees Health Scrutiny Joint Committee is currently engaged in considering the short to medium term financial picture for the South of Tees Health Economy. The Joint Scrutiny Committee has already spoken with the Chief Executive of NHS Tees and Chief Executive of the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust on the topic. The Panel also intends to speak with the leaders of the emerging clinical commissioning groups, to hear their perspective on how the local system can respond to the financial challenge, whilst protecting service quality.
6. As has been reported to the OSB previously, Middlesbrough takes part in a Regional Scrutiny Committee, which is convened when it is required to consider health-related topics of a regional dimension. OSB is asked to note that Cllr Eddie Dryden has been elected as Chair of that Committee for 2011/12.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

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

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