

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

10 JANUARY 2012

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.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

3. The Health Scrutiny Panel has recently concluded its review into Neurological Services, which is elsewhere on the agenda. The Panel was scheduled to meet on 5 January 2012 and agree the items it would like to advance as part of its work programme. A further update will be provided at the Overview & Scrutiny Board meeting.
4. The Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee last met on 19 December 2011, where considered the development of Clinical Commissioning Groups across the Tees area and the ongoing situation with winter resilience/winter preparedness facing the local authority. The Joint Scrutiny Committee heard that so far, winter pressures were manageable, although constant vigilance would be required to ensure the system is able to cope.
5. The Joint Scrutiny Committee also heard that it is likely that there will be a Clinical Commissioning Group for the North of Tees area and one for the South of Tees area. The Joint Scrutiny Committee was briefed on the Department of Health's expectations of Clinical Commissioning Groups and various tasks they are expected to perform, before they move towards full authorisation. The Joint Scrutiny Committee will continue to monitor the development of the Clinical Commissioning Groups and engage with the CCGs in the setting of their priorities. The Joint Scrutiny Committee will be

paying particular attention to how those CCGs will be working together when necessary, to plan and commission services for the Tees-wide population.

6. The Joint Scrutiny Committee will also be continuing to monitor how the local health and social care economy deals with winter pressures and will be revisiting the topic soon.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

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Chair, Health Scrutiny Panel**

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