

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 9 (e)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

5 FEBRUARY 2013

HEALTH SCRUTINY UPDATE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To update the Overview & Scrutiny Board on the progress of the Health Scrutiny function.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the Overview & Scrutiny Board notes the progress of the Health Scrutiny function.

Consideration

3. The Health Scrutiny Panel continues with its work into the topic of Children with Complex Needs. The Panel has recently considered evidence from *Contact a Family* and *Parents 4 Change*, which is a Middlesbrough based group for Parents & Carers of Children with Complex Needs. The Panel has agreed that a representative from Parents 4 Change will work with the panel for the duration of the review, to assist in establishing lines of enquiry, asking questions and developing a final report. The Panel's work on this topic is progressing well.
4. The Health Scrutiny Panel is also due to consider an update on Healthcare Associated Infections and current statistics on incidence at James Cook University Hospital. This is part of a routine update that the Panel receives, as part of ensuring it remains up to date with an important topic. Members may have seen that James Cook University Hospital has experienced challenges with incidences of Norovirus¹. The Panel has specifically asked colleagues from the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to speak about the incidence of Norovirus at JCUH, and the strategies employed to deal with it, in addition to the Healthcare Associated Infections that it routinely updates the Panel on.

¹ More detail about Norovirus can be found at the following link
www.nhs.uk/conditions/Norovirus/Pages/Introduction.aspx

5. The Health Scrutiny Panel is also in the process of setting up a roundtable debate, with all relevant agencies in attendance, to discuss the significant pressures that Accident & Emergency Services have been under during the 2012-13 winter. The Panel will be exploring whether the pressures faced this winter have been exceptional, or whether it is indicative of a more systemic over-reliance on hospital based services for access to healthcare. It is anticipated that this meeting will take place in mid March, to allow the winter pressures on services to hopefully abate somewhat, so there is more capacity within services to reflect on the winter season. The Overview & Scrutiny Board will be kept up to date with progress.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

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

Contact Officer:

Jon Ord - Scrutiny Support Officer
Telephone: 01642 729706 (direct line)
Email: jon_ord@middlesbrough.gov.uk