

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 6 (e)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD 7 JANUARY 2014

HEALTH SCRUTINY – UPDATE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide members of the Overview & Scrutiny Board with an update on the progress of the Health Scrutiny function.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

CONSIDERATION

Health Scrutiny Panel

3. The panel has been continuing with its review of Mental Health Services Capacity. The panel met on 17 December to discuss mental health provision with the Chief Executive from Middlesbrough and Stockton MIND. The panel learnt that with the increasing population, people living more stressful lives and increasing awareness of mental health issues MIND are seeing more are more people with mental health problems, and more worryingly the number of people with very complex cases is also growing. The panel discussed how just treating the illness wasn't enough and that the quality of a person's life is an important factor in good mental health. The panel will continue with the review at their next meeting in January.

South Tees Health Scrutiny Joint Committee

4. Formal consultation is due to begin on the IMProVE project (Integrated management and proactive care for the vulnerable and elderly) which involves formally transforming community services. It is anticipated that the panel will be involved in that consultation in January/February.

Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Joint Committee

5. The committee met on 9 December and received an update from the CCG on winter planning and management in the Tees Valley. The presentation featured, amongst other information, the winter communication plan for the public, which encouraged people to use pharmacies, their GPs and walk in centres as their first point of contact rather than A&E departments. The work on winter pressures undertaken by Middlesbrough's Health Scrutiny Panel was submitted to the committee for information.

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

6. No background papers were used to prepare this briefing paper.

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