

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 8(e)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

19 AUGUST 2014

HEALTH SCRUTINY – UPDATE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

CONSIDERATION

Health Scrutiny Panel

3. The panel met on 5 August to receive information from the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust on their recent announcements regarding their current financial position and the recent Monitor investigations. The panel explored the steps being taken to secure improvements, implement the transformational changes and address the financial issues in what was regarded as a very challenging time for the Trust.
4. Earlier in 2014 the Trust had predicted that if no action was taken the Trust could face a deficit of £29.4 million in the current financial year and a gap of up to £48.3 million in 2015/2016. It was reported that savings of £60 million cost improvements had been achieved over three years with £12 million per annum planned.
5. It was identified that one of the pressures facing the Trust was the recruitment of doctors and consultants and in particular referred to the

training programme and Health Education North East. The Panel suggested that it would be useful if representatives of both Health Education North East and the Trust attend a future meeting of the Panel to provide further information.

South Tees Health Scrutiny Joint Committee

6. The committee met on 22 July before the closure of the South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group's consultation on the IMProVE project on 31 July. The project has significant impact across South Tees and in Middlesbrough, where changes to community based services could see the possible closure of Carter Bequest Hospital.
7. The committee is meeting on 17 September to hear further evidence on this topic in order to gain a balanced view of the proposals.

Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee

8. The committee is due to meet on 11 September to begin its work programme.

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

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