

**HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL  
ACCESS TO GP SERVICES – ACTION PLAN**

**DATE: 7 October 2014**

<b>SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>PROPOSED ACTION</b>	<b>BY WHOM</b>	<b>BUDGET COST</b>	<b>TIMESCALE</b>
<p><b>a) That NHS England ensures that are no GP practices which operate a premium rate 08 number in Middlesbrough now or in the future.</b></p>	<p>0844 numbers - It can be confirmed that the two practices listed in the report, Prospect Surgery and Village Medical Centre are now operating a geographical number. Whilst the 0844 number is still in operation at both surgeries, patients ringing the 0844 number hear a message which asks patients to call a geographical number and does not allow the patient to get through to the practice on the 0844 number. The geographical number for both practices was advertised on the practice's website</p>	<p>Wendy Stephens – Primary Care Contracts Manager at NHS England.</p>	<p>nil</p>	<p>August 2015</p>
<p><b>b) That a piece of work is undertaken by the Health Scrutiny Panel, in conjunction with the South Tees CCG and NHS England, on the current coverage of GPs in the area how the health service is assessing the situation and planning for the future supply and demand of GPs.</b></p>	<p>Recommendation for the Health Scrutiny Panel - The item has been added to the Health Scrutiny Panel's work programme for 2014-15</p>	<p>Elise Pout – Scrutiny Officer</p>	<p>nil</p>	<p>April 2015</p>

c) <b>That the Council writes to the NHS England to ascertain more detailed statistics on the numbers of GPs and to capture the number of hours they are available to patients.</b>	Recommendation for the Health Scrutiny Panel - This will be undertaken as part of the scrutiny review as detailed in (b)	Elise Pout – Scrutiny Officer	nil	April 2015
d) <b>That the Council writes to the Department of Health, with their concerns about the falling numbers of GPs, and the future impact that this may have, and ask them to comment on how they could facilitate making a GPs return to practice easier.</b>	Recommendation for the Health Scrutiny Panel - A letter will be sent to the Department of Health on behalf of the Health Scrutiny Panel	Elise Pout - Scrutiny Officer	nil	November 2014
e) <b>That people are fully informed when they join a practice which might not be near their home address that they will not be eligible for home visits from a doctor from that surgery due to the distance.</b>	Home visits - Currently, if a practice registers a patient then that patient is eligible to receive a home visit. However from 01 October 2014, a practice will be able to sign-up to deliver the 'extending patient choice' scheme; this is where the practice will be able to register a patient who does not reside within the practice's boundary, and this would negate the need for the practice to undertake a home visit. For those patients who require a home visit, NHS England will be required to ensure there are services in place. We are currently	Wendy Stephens – Primary Care Contracts Manager at NHS England.	nil	August 2015

	awaiting national guidance regarding the scheme and we will be able to update the committee further, once information is received.			
<b>f) That the Panel will request a position statement on the topic of longer opening times from the Local Medical Committee with a view to undertaking a further investigation of this issue if appropriate.</b>	Recommendation for the Health Scrutiny Panel - This item has been added to the Health Scrutiny Panel's work programme for 2014-15	Elise Pout – Scrutiny Officer	nil	March 2015