

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 13 (e)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD 6 JANUARY 2015

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 the 18 November to receive further information from NHS England regarding the results of the consultation process on the AMPS (Alternative Provider Medical Services) contracts affecting the GP practices in Hemlington and North Ormesby.
4. Members learnt that the contracts for the Hemlington and North Ormesby practices would be extended to 6/12/15 and 31/03/16 respectively. In Hemlington the current provider did not want to continue their contract and NHS England outlined how they were looking to secure a short term contract with an alternative provider for a 12 month period.
5. Further engagement activities with patients, patient representative groups and other stakeholders will be ongoing during the period of the extension of the contracts and the panel will be kept up to date with developments.
6. The panel also met on 16 December to receive an update on Winter Pressure planning, representatives of the South Tees CCG and the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust outlined the extra non-recurring monies that had been allocated to Middlesbrough to help alleviate winter

pressures. £3m was made available over 3 tranches for a number of initiatives including 'time to think' beds, short stay provision in care homes, 7 day working for social care workers, public information campaigns, increased nurse assessment for the discharge process and extra equipment for A&E.

7. The panel heard that lessons had been learnt from the procedures put in place last winter. Information was reaching the public about the correct place to seek treatment as they were seeing a fall in the number of less complex cases in A&E. Lessons had been learnt in the discharge process and the discharge lounge was being reinstated. When discussing the main successes, Members heard that the allocation of more doctors and more consultants who were available 7 days a week, had made a significant difference and that all the various organisations in the system were now working better together and robust contingency plans are in place should demand increase.
8. Members also met with representatives from Health Education North East and the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust about the allocation of trainee health professionals around the North East Region. The panel heard that there was a reduction in the number of people entering medical school and that changes in immigration laws were preventing foreign doctors from working in the NHS had an impact on recruitment. Workforce planning was a difficult issue and certain specialist posts were difficult to fill, however resources and support are being used to try and recruit to such posts.

Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee

9. The committee met on 27 November to discuss Winter Planning and Management Across the Tees Valley (including information on the take up of the Flu Vaccine amongst 'at risk' groups and health professionals), Securing Quality in Health Services and details of the review of Baysdale Short Break for Children with Complex Needs.

Councillor Eddie Dryden
Chair, Health Scrutiny Panel

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

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