

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 9 (e)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

3 March 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 on 2 February to discuss issues affecting GP practices in Middlesbrough with the Secretary of the Cleveland Medical Committee. Members were informed there is a shortage of people taking up GP training places, that doctors are retiring earlier or working part time and that in this area it can be difficult to recruit GPs to vacant posts. The panel were extremely concerned that there could be a future 'crisis' in GP provision. As the panel have heard on numerous occasions, the number of appointments is increasing and patients are presenting with more complex cases and of course this is all exacerbated by the increasing elderly population. The panel will make representations to Government in order to further raise awareness of these issues and are planning to speak to the CCG and/or the NHS Area Team to seek their view on the future of GP practices in Middlesbrough and gain an understanding of the work that is taking place to mitigate the effects of falling numbers of GPs and recruitment difficulties.
4. The panel are scheduled to meet on 24 February to receive an update from a number of healthcare professionals and private sector providers on Neurological Services, following the panel's initial review of the topic in

January 2012.

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

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