

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 10 (e)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

1 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 3 February to receive a presentation on the Better Health Programme, to ensure the panel's involvement with its on-going development. The Better Health Programme is a joint regional initiative, the focus of which is to examine acute hospital care and identify changes that might be required to achieve the desired standards of quality in hospital care across Darlington, Durham and Teesside.
4. It is anticipated that a Joint Committee will be set up between the local authorities involved to enable that committee to respond to consultation should the programme recommend any substantial variation to local services. Further information will be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Board in due course.
5. The panel will resume its evidence gathering on cancer screening and reducing cancer related deaths on 23 February where they will meet with representatives from the Macmillan Integrated Care Project, which looks at

end to end care, from pre-diagnosis to end of life and NHS England, who have been invited to discuss cancer screening in Middlesbrough.

South Tees Health Scrutiny Joint Committee

6. The committee will be meeting on 7 March to hold a 'round-table' discussion to gather independent views from stakeholders on the South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group's on-going review of urgent care. Representatives are expected from North East Ambulance Services, Healthwatch, Teesside University, Local Medical Committee, Pharmacy Network, Public Health and Adult Social Care.
7. The committee have produced an interim report on their work relating to the temporary closure of the Breast Radiology Department in James Cook University Hospital, which has been submitted to this meeting for information and approval. The report provides a number of actions for the Committee which include writing to the local MPs and the Chief Executives of the respective Trusts. Further meetings on this will be held in due course and the topic of the impact of the shortage of general radiologists has been added to the Committee's work programme. A response has been received from the Department of Health to the Committee's letter, the letter acknowledges the key role that Middlesbrough Council plays holding the local NHS to account as it determines local provision. The letter also gives details of Health Education England's Workforce Plan for England where it states their commitment to expanding the clinical radiology workforce.

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

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