

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting28th October 2010

1. Title of Item/Report

Response to the Health White Paper Equity and Excellence: liberating the NHS

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet considered a report that summarised the main points of the Health White Paper and the implications for the Council, as well as incorporating the response submitted to the consultation on behalf of the Council and the Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board.

The White Paper represented a significant change in the role of councils and their responsibilities relating to health improvement and the coordination of health and social care.

The proposals were focused on four areas:

- Putting patients and public first
- Improving healthcare outcomes
- Autonomy, accountability and democratic legitimacy
- Cutting bureaucracy and improving efficiency

Members were provided with further detail relating to each of the four areas.

It was explained that the Department of Health (DH) launched its public consultation setting out proposals to support the White Paper, covering:

- Commissioning for patients
- Regulating healthcare providers
- The review of arms-length bodies
- Local democratic legitimacy in health
- Transparency in outcomes: a framework for the NHS
- Achieving equity and excellence for children.

A member's seminar session was held in August to outline the proposals and discuss the key issues. The Health and Wellbeing Partnership held an extra-ordinary meeting to review the key points and Health Scrutiny

undertook its own internal review of the White Paper. In addition there had been various internal meetings with officers and attendance at regional events that had helped shape and influence the comments that have been collated.

A summary of the issues/ responses was provided which had been submitted in line with the DH deadline of the 11 October 2010.

Members noted that the Health White Paper signaled a significant period of change for the Local Authority and NHS. This was in parallel to challenging financial constraints in both areas. The management of the transition period will be critical in "skilling up" the GP Consortia to manage their new functions, transferring of health improvement functions/ personnel to the Local Authority and reshaping pathways to enable efficiencies to be released and ensure that quality of care was maintained.

The Public Health White Paper was anticipated in December 2010 and would consult on further details around the expectations and arrangements for the public health transition to the Local Authority.

RESOLVED that the potential implications of the Health White Paper and noted the response to the Consultation questions for Stockton Borough Council.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To highlight the direction of travel outlined in the White Paper and note the proposals outlined.

To ensure that Stockton's feedback is included in the national consultation process.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not applicable

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

By no later than midnight on Friday 5 November 2010.

Proper Officer
01 February 2010