

## Health Select Committee

A meeting of Health Select Committee was held on Monday, 4th September, 2006.

**Present:** Cllr Mrs M B Womphrey (Chairman), Cllr P Baker, Cllr C Coombs, Cllr K Dixon, Cllr Miss B Inman, Cllr Mrs E A Nesbitt, Cllr J M Roberts, Cllr Mrs B Robinson

**Officers:** G Birtle, Miss F Shayler (LD).

**Also in attendance:** Ms K Shah (Consultant in Public Health)

**Apologies:** were received from Councillors Apedaile, Harrington, Lupton, Sherris and Teasdale.

### **577 To consider the draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Health Select Committee held on 24th July 2006**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th July 2006 were agreed as a correct record.

### **578 Review of NHS Dentistry Provision**

The Health Select Committee had completed the gathering evidence part of their Scrutiny Review on NHS Dental Provision. The Scrutiny Officer highlighted the main issues that the Committee had identified from the review and the actions that the PCT had taken so far.

Ms Shah updated Members on progress of the PCT regarding Dental Healthcare in Stockton on Tees. There had been a political lobby to fluoridise water and the SHA would be investigating this matter further and carrying out a consultation exercise. Information was also provided on the 'Brushing for Life' and 'Patient Education' campaign. The PCT were currently meeting with Dental Practices in the area to explain in more detail the rolling programme of funding to reassure Dentists. Ms Shah was undertaking research to identify gaps in service and looking at transport links and access to services. The Scrutiny Officer would assist Ms Shah to gather information on Bus Routes and put her in touch with John Kavanagh.

Discussion was also held about dental sealants which can be provided to children to prevent tooth decay. Sealants cover the chewing surfaces of the molars (back teeth) where most tooth decay in children and teenagers occur.

Concluded that the comments be noted and the committees findings from this review be presented to the next meeting.

### **579 Select Committee-Work Programme**

Members held discussion on their next topic for review. A request had been received to consider Child Adult Mental Health. The Scrutiny Officer was to meet with the Department to discuss the area for review to discover how in depth the review would need to be to identify timescales etc. This matter would be brought back to the next meeting for Members to discuss along with the

other matters that had been raised as potential review topics.

Concluded that Members receive information on Child Adult Mental Health to determine whether it would be a possibility for their next Scrutiny Review.

**580 Acute Service Review - Referral to the Secretary of State for Health**

The Chairman updated Members regarding a letter that had been received from Patricia Hewitt following our referral to the Secretary of State. The Independent Reconfiguration Panel had been requested to undertake a review of the recommendations made by Professor Darzi in relation to Maternity and Paediatrics as part of the Acute Service Review.

Concluded that a copy of the letter be sent to all Members.