

Health Select Committee

A meeting of Health Select Committee was held on Monday, 26th March, 2007.

Present: Cllr Mrs M B Womphrey (Chairman), Cllr C Coombs, Cllr K Dixon, Cllr D Harrington, Cllr K Lupton, Cllr Mrs E A Nesbitt, Cllr Mrs B Robinson.

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

Also in attendance: I Dalton, J Atkinson, C Pearson (North Tees General Hospital), L O'Leary, K Gater, J White, C Young (North Tees PCT).

Apologies: were submitted on behalf of Cllr Mrs Apedaile, Baker, Miss Inman, Mrs Nesbitt, Roberts, Sherris and Teasdale.

1259 Minutes - 24th November 2006

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2006 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

1260 Minutes - 12th February 2007

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th February 2007 were agreed as a correct record and would be forwarded to the next Council meeting for approval.

1261 Healthcare Commission Core Standards Declaration

During 2006/07 the Select Committee has been more involved with both the North Tees Primary Care Trust and the North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust. Members had been provided with the self declarations for both Trusts and were requested to give views on the standards that they have received evidence for during the year.

The North Tees PCT stated to Members that this year they had been compliant with all but 2 of the core standards in the areas of Safety Equipment and Waste Management. For the 2 core standards where compliance had not been met action plans had been put in place in year to address the shortfalls and the assessment was that these cases were now compliant and would be sustained in the future. Members asked a number of questions in relation to avoiding and containing infections and were pleased with the progress and action being taken. It was also stated that continuous assessment took place throughout the year to make sure that they were fully compliant.

The North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust stated that they had undertaken a full review of the core standards and were declaring full compliance.

Discussion was held on patient safety and it was stated that many measures had been put in place to improve the security in hospital buildings by recruiting a professional security team. The core standard in relation to patient safety also included protecting patients from human error and protecting staff. Members discussed the importance of hygiene in relation to visitors cleaning their hands when entering wards. The Director stated that stations for cleaning hands and antibacterial cleansers were in designated places all around the hospital as well as advertising/promoting the importance of doing so, especially upon entering

wards. It was stated that it was a disciplinary matter for staff who didn't wash their hands/use the cleansers on a regular basis and monthly audits of this took place.

The target of treating Accident and Emergency patients was discussed, and it was stated that the Trust was always withing target.

CONCLUDED that the Select Committees views regarding the standards that they have received evidence for be noted and put in writing by the Scrutiny Officer.

1262 North Tees and Hartlepool Hospital Trust - Foundation Trust Consultation Response

Members discussed their response to the North Tees and Hartlepool Hospital Trust applying to become a Foundation Trust. A matter which had been considered at their last meeting on 12th February, 2007.

It was stated that the response needed to be considered by all members of the authority and a presentation would be held on 12th April 2007 to consider the Trust becoming a Foundation Trust together with the Health Select Committees initial response.

CONCLUDED that a Seminar be held on 12th April for all Members regarding North Tees and Hartlepool Hospital becoming a Foundation Trust prior to a response being submitted on behalf of the Council.

1263 Work Programme

Members agreed that no further business would be considered during this Municipal Year.

CONCLUDED that no further business be discussed this Muncipal Year unless any urgent matters arose.