

Health Select Committee

Update to Executive Scrutiny Committee – 21 November 2006

Review of NHS Dentistry Provision

Update on Progress (including issues/problems/successes)

The final report will be considered by the PCT Board on 23rd November.

The report was sent to North East Strategic Health Authority but no response has been given to the recommendation that consultation be carried out to determine the level of support for water fluoridation in the borough. The Scrutiny Officer has been contacted by residents regarding this issue since it received publicity in the Evening Gazette and BBC Radio Cleveland.

Work Programme

The Committee has not currently identified a specific issue to scrutinise. In the interim alternative work is being undertaken.

The Select Committee is meeting with representatives from the Healthcare Commission in the region on 24th November who will provide background and guidance so that the Committee is fully involved and improves its response to the PCT and Hospital Trusts Annual Healthcheck.

Acute Service Provision

The Independent Reconfiguration Panel is continuing to take evidence regarding the maternity and paediatric services at North Tees and Hartlepool Hospitals. Hartlepool's MP has received most recent publicity regarding his meeting with the Panel arguing to maintain the implementation of Professor Darzi's proposals.

The IRP will report its findings on 18th December to the Secretary of State and will then publish its report and meeting transcripts on its web site 4 weeks later.