

Health Select Committee

Update to Executive Scrutiny Committee – 23 January 2006

Work Programme

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

Members of the Select Committee undertook a visit to University Hospital North Tees (UHNT) which provided an opportunity to visit the orthopaedic and critical care units as well as have discussions with the trust's chief executive and a number of senior officers. It was suggested that a similar arrangement be made to allow members to visit University Hospital Hartlepool as this is the site of the majority of elective surgery.

The Select Committee will be meeting representatives from UHNT on 12th February as part of the hospital trust's consultation process as it is applying for foundation trust status. If successful that would:

- Devolve more power and responsibility to the local level so that the hospital is better able to respond to the needs of patients.
- Devolve accountability to local stakeholders including NHS patients and staff.
- Support patient choice by increasing the plurality and diversity of providers within the NHS.

Acute Service Provision

A decision is yet to be published as to the final outcome for women and children's services.