

Health Select Committee

Update to Executive Scrutiny Committee – 22 September 2009

EIT Programme - Fair Access to Care Services (FACS)

Update on Progress (including issues/ problems/ successes)

The Committee is surveying other authorities in order to gain from their experiences of applying the FACS bandings. At the meeting of 3 August, Members received evidence from Middlesbrough regarding its review of FACS bandings. Also on 3 August the Committee received legal advice from the Council's Principal Solicitor.

On 14 September, the Committee met with representatives of North Yorkshire and Sunderland Councils in order to benefit further from the experience of other authorities.

Work on data regarding the numbers of clients in each FACS banding, and associated costs, is ongoing and will be used to inform the committee's decision making process, and the Committee continue to monitor developments related to the Care and Support Green Paper.

Timescales

The FACS review is scheduled to report in February 2010.

Monitoring

At the meetings of 3 August and 14 September, quarterly updates were received for the reviews of Alcohol and Dentistry.

Other Work

Members contributed to the regional committee held on 17 August to consider the North East Ambulance Services Foundation Trust application. The regional submission has been forwarded to the Trust, along with the Tees Valley Joint Committee's response.

The Committee received an update on 14 September from the PCT with regard to changes to the Phlebotomy Service provided in Thornaby and Ingleby Barwick.