

AGENDA ITEM

28TH APRIL 2008

North Tees Health Centre Development - Consultation: 5th May – 1st August 2008

Summary

The attached paper (see Appendix 1) sets out the North Tees PCT's requirement to develop a health centre in the borough the details of which will be consulted upon for thirteen weeks commencing Monday, 5th May 2008.

Recommendation

That Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's Health Select Committee considers the content of the attached briefing paper, highlight any additional issues and determine the level of involvement the Committee will take for this consultation exercise.

Detail

1. In October 2007 Professor Lord Darzi published an interim report (Our NHS, our future (see Appendix 2)) which is to be read as the start of developing a vision of the National Health Service for the next ten years.
2. Included in that report are the following immediate steps that are expected to be taken ahead of a final report:
 - To help make care fairer - a comprehensive strategy for reducing health inequalities, challenging the NHS, as a key player, to live up to its founding and enduring values.
 - To help make care more personal - patient choice should be embedded within the full spectrum of NHS funded care, going beyond elective surgery into new areas such as primary care and long term conditions:
 - New resources should be invested to bring new GP practices – whether they are organised on the traditional independent contractor model or by new private providers - to local communities where they are most needed, starting with the 25% of PCTs with the poorest provision.
 - Newly procured health centres in easily accessible locations should be offering all members of the local population a range of convenient services, even if they choose not to be directly registered with GPs in these centres.
 - PCTs should introduce new measures to develop greater flexibility in GP opening hours, including the introduction of new providers. The aim is that, over time, the majority of GP practices will offer patients much greater choice of when to see a GP, extending hours into the evenings or weekend.
3. The second stage of the Review will set out how this will deliver the vision for a world class health service through a locally accountable NHS in which health and social care staff are empowered to lead change, supported by the right reformed systems and incentives.

4. In order to meet the requirements of the first stage of the review North Tees PCT is required to develop a health centre, but will not be required to procure additional GP practices.
5. Based on the factors used by North Tees PCT the preferred location for the new health centre is the Hardwick ward and the preferred site is Tithebarn House.
6. It is proposed that a 13-week consultation will be undertaken commencing 5 May 2008 until 1 August 2008 focusing on possible additional services to be provided in new Health Centre and the criteria for the selection of providers.

Conclusion

The Health Select Committee is asked to consider the content of the attached briefing, highlight any additional issues that may need to be addressed during the consultation period and how the Committee wishes to be involved.

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Background Papers :

Overview and Scrutiny Brief Re: Health Centre Development (see Appendix 1)
Our NHS, our future (see Appendix 2)

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Hardwick Ward – Councillors Noble and Mrs Nesbitt