

**TEES VALLEY HEALTH SCRUTINY JOINT COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee was held on 19 July 2010.

- PRESENT:**
- Representing Darlington Borough Council:  
Councillors Newall and Mrs Swift
  
  - Representing Hartlepool Borough Council:  
Councillors Cook and G Lilley
  
  - Representing Middlesbrough Council:  
Councillors Davison and Dryden
  
  - Representing Redcar & Cleveland Council:  
Councillors Carling and Mrs Wall
  
  - Representing Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council:  
Councillor Mrs Cains.

- OFFICERS:** A Metcalfe (Darlington Borough Council), J Walsh (Hartlepool Borough Council), J Bennington and J Ord (Middlesbrough Council), M Ahmeen (Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council) and P Mennear (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council).

**APPOINTMENTS – CHAIR – VICE CHAIR – TEES VALLEY HEALTH SCRUTINY JOINT COMMITTEE**

In a report of the Scrutiny Support Officer details were given of the previously agreed Protocol for the operation of the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee.

Specific reference was made to the appointment of the Chair in rotation namely, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council (2010/2011) and Hartlepool Borough Council (2011/2012).

**AGREED** as follows: -

1. That Councillor Mrs Wall (Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council) be appointed as Chair of the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee for the Municipal Year 2010/2011.
2. That Councillor S Akers-Belcher (Hartlepool Borough Council) be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee for the Municipal Year 2010/2011.

**N.B.** Councillor Mrs Wall took the Chair at this point of the meeting.

**\*\* APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs Scott (Darlington Borough Council), Councillor S Akers-Belcher (Hartlepool Borough Council), Councillor Cole (Middlesbrough Council), Councillor Higgins (Redcar and Cleveland Council) and Councillor Mrs Walmsley (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council).

**\*\* DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Name of Member	Type of Interest	Item / Nature of Interest
Councillor Mrs Wall	Personal/Non Prejudicial	Any matters relating to North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust - related to a number of employees.

**\*\* MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings of the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee held on 8 March and 8 April 2010 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

**\*\* MATTERS ARISING – CANCER SCREENING FINAL REPORT - QUALITY ACCOUNTS –**

Reference was made to the Joint Committee's Final Report on Cancer Screening Services across the Tees Valley, which had been presented to and very well received by the Joint Primary Care Trust Boards. The Joint Committee was advised that members of the PCT Boards had appreciated the opportunity of being able to engage with the Chair of the Joint Committee in presenting the report in person to the Boards.

Members referred to the previous consideration and contribution by the Joint Committee to the Quality Accounts process and requested that a copy of the final versions of the North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust and the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust be provided to Members.

NOTED AND APPROVED

**TEES VALLEY HEALTH SCRUTINY JOINT COMMITTEE – SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2010/2011**

The Scrutiny Support Officer submitted a report regarding potential sources for scrutiny topics and information reports during the 2010/2011 Municipal Year which focused on the following:

- i) the ramifications of the Department of Health's White Paper setting out the Government's plans for the NHS and more detailed documents which were due at the end of July 2010 with particular regard to GPs influence over commissioning decisions;
- ii) to continue to have regular discussions with the local NHS about how preparations were being made for the period of reduced financial growth ahead and to explore how they intended to make the necessary significant efficiency savings, nationally £15-20 billion over the next four years;
- iii) to include capacity in the work programme to deal with issues as and when they arose by the local NHS.

Aside from statutory elements of work other possible topics of investigation for the Joint Committee included: -

- a) update on Cancer Screening services;
- b) how community mental health services had been developed, or were being developed, to ensure they had sufficient capacity to deal with the increased numbers of people accessing services in the community;
- c) how the local NHS safeguards vulnerable adults who were accessing their services.

Members referred to the Government announcement that the proposals for a new replacement hospital for the North Tees and, Hartlepool University Hospitals would no longer receive Treasury funding. Members requested that the Joint Committee be appraised of the current situation at the earliest opportunity.

Specific reference was made to the disappointment which had been expressed by Members of Hartlepool and Stockton Borough Councils regarding the Government's decision and concerns in relation to other proposals of Momentum, in particular the provision of appropriate community health facilities.

Following recent indications on the possible way forward in seeking alternative sources of funding it was suggested that the Chief Executive of the North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust be invited to attend the meeting of the Joint Committee to be held on 13 September 2010 to provide an update for Members.

The Joint Committee referred to other previous scrutiny topics and suggested that a further update be provided in respect of developments to Sexual Health services.

Members supported the suggestion to consider developments to community mental health services including the advances around talking therapies and asked for an update on such services.

The Joint Committee commented on the implications of the Government's recent White Paper setting out its plans for the NHS. It was confirmed that the document stated a deadline of 5 October 2010 for the receipt of comments. Given the positive and influential work of the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee and that of the individual local authority health scrutiny function Members expressed concerns at the proposals in the White Paper to abolish the statutory powers of health overview and scrutiny committees.

**AGREED** as follows:-

1. That it be recommended that the suggested topics for scrutiny investigation as outlined above form the basis of the Scrutiny Work Programme of the Joint Committee for the 2010/2011 Municipal Year subject to the addition of:-
  - a) that the Chief Executive of the North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust be invited to attend the meeting of the Joint Committee to be held on 13 September 2010 to provide an update on the proposals for a replacement hospital;
  - b) that a progress report be provided on the development to Sexual Health services;
  - c) that following the publication of the Government's White Paper setting out plans for the NHS the Joint Committee be advised of the further detailed documents due to be published at the end of July 2010.
2. That further consideration be given to the Joint Committee submitting a written response outlining its views in respect of the Department of Health's White Paper on its plans for the NHS.