

HEALTH SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA



Tuesday, 1 December 2009

at 3.00 pm

**in Council Chamber
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

MEMBERS: HEALTH SCRUTINY FORUM:

Councillors Barker, Brash, S Cook, A Lilley, G Lilley, Plant, Sutheran, Worthy and Young

Resident Representatives:

Jean Kennedy and Linda Shields

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
- 3. MINUTES**
 - 3.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2009; and
 - 3.2 Minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2009 (*to follow*)
- 4. RESPONSES FROM LOCAL NHS BODIES, THE COUNCIL, EXECUTIVE OR COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL TO FINAL REPORTS OF THIS FORUM**

No items.

5. **CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR SCRUTINY REVIEWS REFERRED VIA SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE**

No items.

6. **CONSIDERATION OF PROGRESS REPORTS / BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK DOCUMENTS**

No items.

7. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

Scrutiny Investigation into 'Dust Deposits on the Headland'

7.1 Additional Evidence on Dust Samples – *Scrutiny Support Officer*

7.2 Draft Final Report – *Health Scrutiny Forum*

Scrutiny Investigation into 'Alcohol Abuse – Prevention and Treatment'

7.3 Evidence around 'Preventative Services'

(a) Covering Report – *Scrutiny Support Officer*;

(b) Evidence from Balance North East;

(c) Brief Interventions and role of GPs – Hartlepool Primary Care Trust (PCT);

(d) Targeted Work and Community Aspects of Preventative Services – *Assistant Director (Community Safety and Protection)*; and

(e) Parenting Strategy and Young Person Substance Misuse – *Parenting Commissioner*.

8. **ISSUES IDENTIFIED FROM FORWARD PLAN**

9. **FEEDBACK FROM RECENT MEETING OF TEES VALLEY HEALTH SCRUTINY JOINT COMMITTEE**

9.1 Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee - Update – *Scrutiny Support Officer*

10. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Date of Next Meeting :- Tuesday, 5 January 2010 at 3.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

HEALTH SCRUTINY FORUM

MINUTES

27 October 2009

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm in the Borough Hall, The Headland,
Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Jonathan Brash (In the Chair)

Councillors: Caroline Barker, Alison Lilley, Geoff Lilley and David Young.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2 (ii), Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher attended as a substitute for Councillor Gladys Worthy.

Resident representative:

Jean Kennedy

Officers: Dave Stubbs, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Sylvia Tempest, Environmental Standards Manager
Adrian Hurst, Principal Environmental Health Officer

Also in attendance:

Councillors: Peter Jackson, Portfolio Holder for Transport and
Neighbourhoods
Gerard Hall, Portfolio Holder for Adult and Public Health
Services
John Marshall, Tim Fleming and Stephen Allison (St Hilda Ward
Councillors)
Reuben Atkinson, Arthur Preece, Chris McKenna, Sheila Griffin

Resident representatives:

Iris Ryder, John Lynch, John Cambridge, Evelyn Leck, Bob
Farrow, Ted Jackson, Bob Steel and Joan Steel.

Officers: Dave Stubbs, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Sylvia Tempest, Environmental Standards Manager
Adrian Hurst, Principal Environmental Health Officer
Joan Wilkins, Scrutiny Manager
James Walsh, Scrutiny Support Officer
Angela Hunter Principal Democratic Services Officer

Ken Smith, PD Ports
Dr Peter Kelly, Director of Public Health
Paul Quayle and Alan Lloyd, Hereema Hartlepool Ltd
John Hill, Environment Agency
Mr Ashby, Ian Baxter, M Bardon, Van Dalen

47. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Shaun Cook, Michelle Plant, Lilian Sutheran and Gladys Worthy.

48. Declarations of Interest by Members

None.

49. Minutes

None.

50. Responses from Local NHS Bodies, the Council, Executive or Committees of the Council to Final Reports of this Forum

None.

51. Consideration of request for scrutiny reviews referred via Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

None.

52. Consideration of progress reports/budget and policy framework documents

None.

53. Dust Deposits on the Headland (*Scrutiny Manager/Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods and Director of Public Health*)

The Principal Environmental Officer presented a report which provided background information relating to dust complaints on the Headland and details of work undertaken by Environmental Protection Officers as part of the investigation into 'Dust on the Headland'. It was noted that in June 2009 a Dust Monitoring Exercise was commenced including daily and weekly samples from sites around the Headland, Central Estate and the Marina. This also involved the collection of daily weather reports, daily records of any shipping and cargoes loaded and unloaded in the port along with visual monitoring of port activities. The Principal Environmental Officer confirmed that where any complaints have been received, they have been investigated and the issues resolved. However, there could be no guarantee that there may be recurrences of problems or new problems arising.

Clarification was sought on the dust content of the samples taken. The

Principal Environmental Health Officer confirmed that the samples analysed were no different in content to that of normal dust or soil. As detailed in the report, the annual mean was recorded at $24\mu\text{gm}^3$ which was comfortably within the target objective of an annual mean of $40\mu\text{gm}^3$ and a 24 hr mean of $50\mu\text{gm}^3$.

The Executive Director of Public Health for NHS Tees gave a detailed and comprehensive presentation to the Forum which provided an overview of health on the Headland and the investigation undertaken in response to questions raised by a Ward Councillor. The investigation had used data from the Hartlepool General Hospital and a General practice on the Headland and focussed on respiratory, skin and liver disease data.

The presentation included graphs detailing the cases of dermatitis or eczema, respiratory disease and liver, skin and respiratory diagnoses in 2008 comparing the St Hilda ward patients to the rest of Hartlepool. These graphs indicated that there was no difference in health status for these particular disease measures, between the Headland and either the neighbouring wards or the rest of Hartlepool. The Executive Director of Public Health for NHS Tees indicated that the evidence thus far showed no link between health problems and dust problems on the Headland.

A discussion ensued in which the following issues were raised.

- (i) Clarification was sought on why the illnesses included in the research were focussed on. The Director of Public Health indicated that the respiratory illness and skin problems were focussed on as it was thought that they had the highest potential to be caused by air borne contaminants. In addition to this, investigations were also being undertaken examining the potentially excessive exposure to heavy metals and the possible connection to cancer, but as yet, no evidence had been found to support that claim.
- (ii) A Member questioned whether patients in rest of Hartlepool in areas of less deprivation than the St Hilda ward were factored out in the figures provided. The Director of Public Health confirmed that 1,972 patients included in these figures were from the specific St Hilda ward GP practice and the remaining 4,191 were from other wards in Hartlepool with a handful from Billingham and County Durham.
- (iii) In relation to the statistics provided in the presentation, a Member asked if consideration had been given to lifestyle choices including how many people smoked. The Director of Public Health confirmed that the predominant cause of respiratory illness was smoking and an assumption had been made that due to Hartlepool having a high prevalence of smoking as a town, that this was equal across the town. However, this detailed information had not been included due to the ethical nature of questioning patients as this information was not necessarily collated on the GP data base.
- (iv) A Member sought clarification on whether any studies had been undertaken on the workforce on the site in relation to their health and well-being? The Director of Public Health indicated that he was not aware of any studies having taken place.

- (v) A Member questioned what the age range was of the people included within the investigation? The Director of Public Health commented that the figures include all ages and added that the vast majority of admissions to hospital with respiratory illnesses were middle age plus adults, but this information could be disseminated should this be felt necessary, although it was thought that this would add very little to the figures.
- (vi) It was commented that the scrap referred to had been located where the current Jacksons Landing building was in the centre of the town around 1970-1990. It was suggested that an investigation be undertaken examining people who had lived near this area. The Director of Public Health indicated that it would be difficult to track people from 20 years ago and added that during this time period, the number of people smoking was up to 40% of the population and this would add to the difficulty in factoring out the effects of smoking on respiratory diseases and in proving the health impact of dust from the scrap pile that current evidence could not conclude.
- (vii) A resident representative sought clarification on how the control group was chosen given that the surrounding areas could also have been subject to the same dust deposits? The Director of Public Health responded that the choice of control group was dictated by:-
 - (i) where the source was and the prevailing wind, which evidence showed was not moving dust to the control group areas; and
 - (ii) The need to explore other factors, such as lifestyle
- (viii) There was concern among residents about the high levels of instances of cancer on the Headland compared to the rest of the town. The Director of Public Health indicated he was currently undertaking an investigation examining this issue and reassured residents that his primary concern was the protection and improvement of the health of the public and was looking at this issue very seriously. However, he did concede that given the evidence already compiled regarding other illnesses he would not expect to find a link between dust and cancer.
- (ix) A resident asked why only a selection of samples were chosen and sent away for analysis. The Principal Environmental Health Officer confirmed that a selection of samples were sent as it was not manageable to send all samples taken, but reassurances were given that samples analysed were taken from several different areas and in different weather conditions to ensure that every possible outcome was taken into account. Residents were asked to note that the analysts had confirmed that the content of the dust was no difference to dust anywhere else and they had specifically looked for heavy metals within the dust.
- (x) In response to a question from a resident, the Chair confirmed that no-one was denying there was an issue with dust coming off the site, but the fact that there were claims that this dust had health implications was what needed to be explored. The Director of Public Health confirmed that the investigations undertaken so far, had not

- found any evidence to suggest that there were any health implications from this dust emanating from this site.
- (xi) A resident confirmed that problems had been raised at the liaison group that had been created. The Principal Environmental Health Officer indicated that these issues had been reported to Van Dalen who had instigated improvements to operations on the site.
 - (xii) In response to residents' concerns a representative from the Environment Agency (EA) confirmed that any complaints received would be investigated to try and substantiate the complaints. In addition to this, the EA did make announced and unannounced visits to the Van Dalen site to monitor the operation of the site. However, the EA were aware that there were issues with the management of the run off from the site and they were working with Van Dalen to rectify this issue.
 - (xiii) Two residents of the Town Wall, read detailed and comprehensive statements which highlighted the problems faced by residents in the area and the responses received from the EA, Van Dalen and Tees and Hartlepool Port Authority (THPA). In addition, a DVD was played at the meeting which showed the operation of the Van Dalen site at various times of the day and night, including dust emissions from the operation of the grabbers. At this point in the meeting, a petition was handed to the Chair and a file containing photographs of the operation within the Van Dalen site was circulated to the Forum.
 - (xiv) The representative from PD Ports indicated that this was a working dock and that every effort had been made to ensure that the best techniques were used to minimise dust emissions, including the investment in new grabber machines. He added that there were procedures and working practices in place with the health and safety and training records leading within the field of that industry.
 - (xv) A Member questioned whether the operation of the site was causing a nuisance under the environmental protection regulations and whether this could be enforced. The Principal Environmental Health Officer confirmed that Van Dalen operate under a permit which was regulated by the EA. The representative from the EA confirmed that work was being undertaken with Van Dalen to ensure that the operation of the site had minimum impact on the area around it. He confirmed that as far as he was aware, the current permit did not require variation at this point in time.
 - (xvi) A Member commented that in the DVD shown to the Forum, the workers operating the machinery did not wear masks or any kind of safety protection and it was questioned whether the EA look at the health and safety of the workers on the site.
 - (xvii) A Member noted the level of frustration felt by residents of the area and indicated that there appeared to have been a breakdown in communication and trust between residents and officers and he was concerned as it was difficult to imagine a quick resolution to this problem whilst this mistrust existed.
 - (xviii) In response to a request from the Chair for an apology to officers for comments made in an email circulated prior to the meeting, the Ward Councillor concerned indicated he was not willing to say that

- he had trust in the representatives around the table with the exception of Dr Peter Kelly.
- (xix) Members were grateful for all the detailed information provided at the meeting which would help them formulate a view and create recommendations to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee and Cabinet.
 - (xx) A resident questioned if the Council's legal section could look at whether any action could be taken under *Wylams and Fletcher*.

In conclusion, the Chair commented that it was absolutely clear that some of the working practices were exacerbating the problem of dust in the area and this needed further investigation. It was noted that in light of all the information and evidence provided to this meeting, further discussion on this issue was required, although it was acknowledged that at this point in time, there had been no evidence presented to link the dust issue to any health implications. In addition, as referred to in the discussions the mistrust between residents and officers needed to be resolved to enable a resolution to be found and for this matter to be taken forward in a positive way. The Chair asked everyone in attendance to note that people do care about this issue and as part of this Forum's report to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee and Cabinet, every effort would be made to ensure the best possible outcome for the residents of the Headland was achieved.

The Chair confirmed that everyone who had attended and signed in at this meeting would be kept informed of progress on this issue. All the representatives and residents in attendance were thanked for their input into the discussions and for highlighting the level of feeling on this issue from residents in the area.

Decision

That the Forum was of the view that:-

- (i) Based on the outcome of investigations undertaken so far no evidence could currently be found to suggest that dust deposits on the Headland had any link to health problems;
- (ii) The analysis of dust samples to date had proven that the content was the same as would be found in every day dust, elsewhere in the town;
- (iii) They wished to receive the results of further investigations currently being undertaken by the Director of Public Health in response to residents requests and the outcome of analysis of the most recently gathered dust samples;
- (iv) A further investigation be undertaken to:-
 - (a) examine the operation of the site from an environmental perspective to ascertain any potential damage to properties, the environment and any possible statutory nuisance;

- (b) explore possible options available in terms of enforcement ensuring that any operational deficiencies on the site are not repeated; and
- (c) explore the role of the Environment Agency as the legally responsible body for the regulation of the operating permit..

54. Issues identified from Forward Plan

None.

55. Feedback from recent meeting of Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee

None.

The meeting concluded at 9.20 pm

CHAIRMAN

HEALTH SCRUTINY FORUM

MINUTES

10 November 2009

The meeting commenced at 3.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Jonathan Brash (In the Chair);

Councillors: Geoff Lilley and David Young

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2 (ii) Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher attended as a substitute for Councillor Shaun Cook and Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher as a substitute for Gladys Worthy

Resident representative:

Linda Shields

Also Present: Councillor Cath Hill, Children's Services Portfolio Holder
Councillor Ged Hall, Adult and Public Health Services Portfolio Holder
Councillor Trevor Rogan

Officers: John Robinson, Parenting Commissioner
Alison Mawson, Assistant Director (Community Safety and Protection)
Chris Hart, Planning and Commissioning Manager

Dr Peter Kelly, Executive Director of Public Health, NHS Tees
Khalid Azam, Assistant Director, Children's Commissioning, NHS Hartlepool (PCT)
Mark Rushforth, TEWW, Integrated Mental Health
Samantha Clark, TEWW, Integrated Mental Health

56. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Barker, S Cook, A Lilley, Plant and Worthy.

57. Declarations of Interest by Members

Councillor C Akers-Belcher declared a personal interest in minute 63.

58. Minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2009

Confirmed subject to the following amendment to Minute 44 of decision (iii) to read:-

- (iii) That the Forum continues to monitor the issue of health inequalities in the town and on doing this receive an update report on an annual basis, focussing on those specific areas causing concerns in relation to life expectancy for women.

59. Minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2009

The Chair advised that in view of the proposal to consider the draft final report relating to this issue at the next meeting, it was agreed that the minutes be deferred until the next meeting.

60. Responses from Local NHS Bodies, the Council, Executive or Committees of the Council to Final Reports of this Forum

None

61. Consideration of Request for Scrutiny Reviews Referred via Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

None

62. Consideration of Progress Reports/Budget and Policy Framework Documents

None

63. Scrutiny Investigation into Alcohol Abuse – Prevention and Treatment – Setting the Scene Presentation – Covering Report (*Scrutiny Support Officer*)

As part of the Forum's investigation into Alcohol Abuse the Planning and Commissioning Manager and Executive Director of Public Health were in attendance at the meeting. The Planning and Commissioning Manager provided a detailed and comprehensive setting the scene presentation which focused on the following issues:-

- Scope and issues related to alcohol
 - Widely associated with pleasure, leisure and relaxation
 - Total value of Britain's drinks market exceeds £30 billion and generates 1 million jobs

- Average pub injects £80,000 per annum into local economy
 - 2 out of 3 people in UK first met their long term partner in licensed premises
 - Around 90% of population consume alcohol and majority do not experience any problems
 - Hits everyone from deprived to affluent communities
 - Alcohol 65% more affordable than in 1980
 - Leads to crime and fear of crime
 - Costs the region over £1 billion a year
 - 12 of top 20 areas for binge drinking in England are in North East
 - Second highest for incapacity benefit claims linked to alcohol
 - Alcohol misuse associated with a range of problems – physical health problems, offending behaviour, suicide, self harm and other mental health problems, social problems, child neglect and abuse, links between high levels of youth alcohol consumption and risky behaviour such as youth offending, truancy, exclusion and other substance misuse, high rate of teenage conception, significant impact on individuals, family, social networks and wider community.
- Crime – Hartlepool custody data
 - Health in Hartlepool – one of the worst rates of alcohol attributable deaths amongst females
 - National/Regional and Local Strategies
 - Hartlepool Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy
 - Drinking Behaviour
 - Safe, Sensible Social
 - Sensible/Low Risk
 - Hazardous (Risky)
 - Harmful (Dependent)
 - Dependent (Harmful)
 - Binge Drinking – 6 units or more in one session (women) 8 units or more in one session (men)
 - Health Observatory National Binge Drinking Profile
 - Estimates Hartlepool Drinking Behaviour
 - Treatment and Support including treatment data
 - Cultural aspects of alcohol problem
 - North East Big Drink Debate
 - Summary of Implications/Impact

Following the conclusion of the presentation discussion ensued which included the following issues:-

- (i) A Member pointed out the benefits of encouraging take-up of leisure facilities and the importance of parental responsibility in addressing the issue of under age drinking and queried how the strategy was encouraging young people into those services. The Forum was advised that there were various funding regimes in place as part of the youth action plan and arrangements were currently being explored on the most effective methods of engaging with young people, further details of which would be provided at a future meeting.
- (ii) In relation to the cultural aspects of the problem, there appeared to be a lack of provision in terms of facilities available that did not involve alcohol consumption. Clarification was sought as to whether this was considered a cultural problem specific to Hartlepool. The Executive Director of Public Health advised that statistics from the Regional Public Health Group indicated that Hartlepool were no better or worse than the rest of the North East.
- (iii) Reference was made to a scrutiny investigation undertaken in 2005 and evidence was requested as to how the recommendations of that investigation had been implemented.
- (iv) Following discussion on the impact the changes in the licensing laws had placed on alcohol related incidents and how the evening economy in Hartlepool differed from other parts of the region, the Assistant Director (Community Safety and Protection) reported that the Hartlepool Partnership had recently commissioned a research paper on the potential impact on Social Services, accident and emergency services and the police and ambulance services. Further evidence of personal experiences could be provided by the District Commander of Police.
- (v) The Director of Public Health commented on the female life expectancy alcohol related mortality rates and the importance of addressing the cultural aspects of the problem both locally and nationally as there was strong evidence that too much alcohol was being consumed. There was overwhelming evidence relating to the harmful effects of alcohol on health and the low cost and availability of alcohol contributed to the problem.
- (vi) In relation to alcohol treatment and intervention, a Member questioned the success of the audit tool in the commissioning and referral process and the arrangements in place to monitor any low referrals. It was reported that the Hartlepool Audit Tool was part of a wider assessment and requirement for treatment intervention. Anyone providing structured treatment were asked to complete the database tool and submit a detailed return for each individual patient onto a national database. Operational meetings had been developed with all providers working together to share views on services. As these monitoring arrangements were in the early development stage, limited data was available. The Executive Director of Public Health highlighted the importance of understanding the data to ensure an equitable service for Hartlepool and agreed to provide details of data for consideration at a future meeting of the Forum.

- (vii) The need to reduce underage drinking, challenge the prevailing culture of binge drinking, the importance of utilising effective education and communication methods on the recommended levels of alcohol consumption and detrimental effects of binge drinking on health were highlighted.
- (viii) The low cost of alcohol in supermarkets, the closure of public houses and the impact on the local economy as well as the health implications were further discussed to which the Executive Director of Public Health agreed to provide information on historical trends relating to the costs of alcohol.
- (ix) Various methods of addressing underage drinking were discussed including the need for a multi-agency approach to the provision of facilities for young people, a review of costs for hire of premises to community groups, health campaigns around safe drinking methods and the advantages of providing real life examples to get the message across on the effects of binge drinking on health.

Recommendation

That the information given, be noted and discussions be used to assist the Forum in completing its investigation.

64. Scrutiny Investigation into Alcohol Abuse – Prevention and Treatment – Evidence from the Authority’s Portfolio Holder for Adult and Public Health Services and Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services – Covering Report *(Scrutiny Support Officer)*

As part of the Forum’s investigation into alcohol abuse, the Portfolio Holders for Adult and Public Health Services and Children’s Services had been invited to the meeting in relation to their responsibilities and views on Alcohol Abuse – Prevention and Treatment.

The Children’s Services Portfolio Holder commented on the importance of communicating the health benefits of reducing alcohol consumption to the public. Concerns were raised regarding the acceptability on television regarding alcohol consumption and the impact of the media and television on peoples’ views towards alcohol consumption, the extension in licensing laws and opening hours of supermarkets selling alcohol and the impact on teenage pregnancy rates in the town. The Portfolio Holder was of the view that lobbying of Central Government should take place with a view to introducing minimum prices and tighter controls.

The Portfolio Holder for Adult and Public Health Services referred to the benefits of a partnership approach in addressing health related issues. The need for a balance between education and legislation was highlighted as well as the importance of ensuring the strategy was developed addressing licensing laws, public order, minimum pricing issues and increasing the level of awareness. Reference was made to the attitudes to underage

drinking on the continent and medical evidence on the effects of under age and binge drinking in the longer term. In addition to analysing statistics, the Portfolio Holder emphasised the importance of examining social and cultural issues.

A Member sought clarification as to whether the current strategy needed to be reviewed to which the Adult and Public Health Services Portfolio Holder advised that a pilot scheme had recently been introduced to close Church Street at certain times of the weekend with a view to addressing anti-social behaviour problems in the evening. The Assistant Director (Community Safety and Prevention) added that there were limits on how licensing conditions could be amended and any review of licensed premises must be based on evidence. The possibility of liaising with neighbouring authorities on the review process was suggested as well as further exploring the issue with the Council's Licensing Officer and the Police.

In response to a Member's query as to whether health services in Hartlepool were underfunded, the Executive Director of Public Health referred to recurring budget deficits and stated that health services in Hartlepool were underfunded in comparison with other areas.

The Chair thanked the representatives for their attendance and answering Members' questions.

Recommendation

That the information given, be noted and discussions be used to assist the Forum in completing its investigation.

65. Scrutiny Investigation into Alcohol Abuse Prevention and Treatment – Alcohol Self Assessment Questionnaire *(Scrutiny Support Officer)*

The Planning and Commissioning Manager circulated a self assessment voluntary questionnaire, the results of which were designed to raise personal self awareness and would not be released unless Members wished to divulge them. It was envisaged that by completing the questionnaire it would enhance Member discussion around the concept of alcohol use, misuse and abuse.

Recommendation

That the contents of the report, be noted and any completed voluntary questionnaires be shared at the next meeting of the Forum on 1 December 2009.

66. Scrutiny Investigation into Alcohol Abuse Prevention and Treatment – Evidence from the North East Big Drink Debate – Covering Report *(Scrutiny Support Officer)*

The Scrutiny Support Officer referred to a comprehensive study of the region's attitudes towards, and relationships with alcohol, the findings of which were attached at Appendix A.

Recommendation

That the findings of the North East Big Drink Debate, attached at Appendix A, be noted.

67. Issues Identified from Forward Plan

None

68. Feedback from recent meeting of Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee

The report provided feedback on the issues discussed at the last meeting of the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee held on 12 October 2009.

Updates had been given on the Momentum Project and North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) Capacity of the Service across the Tees, details of which were set out in the report.

The Forum was advised that a working group had been established to which Councillor G Lilley was the Forum's representative and any views or questions for the Working Group should be communicated via Councillor Lilley.

69. Date of Next Meeting

It was reported that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 1 December 2009 at 3.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre.

The meeting concluded at 4.45 pm.

CHAIRMAN

HEALTH SCRUTINY FORUM

1 December 2009



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION DUST DEPOSITS
ON THE HEADLAND — ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE
ON DUST SAMPLES

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To consider additional written evidence from the sampling of dust deposits in relation to the Health Scrutiny Forum's inquiry into 'Dust Deposits on the Headland'.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of this Forum on 27 October 2009 written evidence was received from the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods entitled 'Dust Deposits on the Headland'.
- 2.2 Consequently following the meeting of 27 October 2009 additional evidence was received from the Principal Environmental Officer, attached as **Appendix A** to this report, presenting the results of further sampling of dust deposits.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That Members of the Forum note the content of this report and the written evidence, attached as **Appendix A** to this report.

Contact Officer: - James Walsh – Scrutiny Support Officer
Chief Executive's Department - Corporate Strategy
Tel: 01429 523647
Email: james.walsh@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background paper was used in the preparation of this report:-

- (i) Minutes of the Health Scrutiny Forum of 27 October 2009.

7.1
Appendix A

		Iron	Titanium	Cadmium	Lead	Chromium	Arsenic	Mercury
30/06/2009	127 Northgate	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
06/07/2009	3 telford Close	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
13/07/2009	Small Crafts	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
20/07/2009	9 Seaview Terrace	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
27/07/2009	3 telford Close	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
04/08/2009	18 Thorpe Street	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
10/08/2009	9 Seaview Terrace	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
17/08/2009	8 Town Wall	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
24/08/2009	127 Northgate	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
01/09/2009	Small Crafts	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
07/09/2009	3 telford Close	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
14/09/2009	18 Thorpe Street	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
21/09/2009	9 Seaview Terrace	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
24/09/2009	3 telford Close	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
24/09/2009	18 Thorpe Street	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
24/09/2009	9 Seaview Terrace	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
24/09/2009	8 Town Wall	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
24/09/2009	127 Northgate	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
24/09/2009	Small Crafts	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
09/09/2009	3 telford Close	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
09/09/2009	Small Crafts	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
20/08/2009	3 telford Close	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
20/08/2009	Small Crafts	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
28/09/2009	3 telford Close	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
28/09/2009	18 Thorpe Street	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
28/09/2009	9 Seaview Terrace	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
28/09/2009	8 Town Wall	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
28/09/2009	127 Northgate	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
28/09/2009	Small Crafts	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None

Weekly
Daily

HEALTH SCRUTINY FORUM

1 DECEMBER 2009



Report of: HEALTH SCRUTINY FORUM

Subject: DUST DEPOSITS ON THE HEADLAND – DRAFT
FINAL REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this draft report is to outline the findings and recommendations of the Health Scrutiny Forum following its investigation into 'Dust Deposits on the Headland'.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 In response to serious concerns from residents on the Headland and surrounding areas to the health implications of dust deposits in these areas, the Chair of the Health Scrutiny Forum agreed that this issue should be investigated by the Health Scrutiny Forum.
- 2.2 The Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 9 October 2009 was advised of the Health Scrutiny Forum's intention to investigate the potential health implications of dust deposits on the Headland. In accordance with agreed practice the outcome of the Health Scrutiny Forum's investigation would be presented to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee. Once the report had been received by Members of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee a decision would be made about if and how any further investigation be undertaken into issues relating to the dust deposits on the Headland that were not covered by the Constitutional function of the Health Scrutiny Forum.

3. METHODS OF INVESTIGATION

- 3.1 Members of the Health Scrutiny Forum met formally on 27 October 2009 at the Borough Hall to receive evidence relating the health implications of dust deposits on the Headland and surrounding areas. A detailed report of the issues raised during this meeting is available from the Council's Democratic Services.

4. MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE AT THE HEALTH SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

- 4.1 With the health implications of dust deposits on the Headland and surrounding areas being of such great concern to residents, the Chair of the Health Scrutiny Forum invited all Elected Members and Resident Representatives to the meeting of the Health Scrutiny Forum held on 27 October 2009. Detailed below is the attendance list for the meeting held on 27 October 2009:-

Members of the Health Scrutiny Forum:-

Councillors: S Akers-Belcher (substituting for Councillor Worthy), Brash, Barker, A Lilley, G Lilley, Young

Resident Representatives: Jean Kennedy

Other Councillors in attendance: Allison, Atkinson, Fleming, Griffin, Hall, Jackson, J Marshall, McKenna and Preece.

Other Resident Representatives in attendance: John Cambridge, Bob Farrow, Ted Jackson, Evelyn Leck, John Lynch, Iris Ryder, Bob Steel and Joan Steel

FINDINGS

5. EVIDENCE GATHERED BY MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH SCRUTINY FORUM

- 5.1 In order to formulate conclusions and recommendations the Health Scrutiny Forum met on 27 October 2009. Evidence gathered by Members during the meeting is detailed below:-

Evidence from Department for Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

- 5.2 Members received a detailed report by the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods covering the history behind the problems of dust deposits on the Headland, the activities carried out by the Environmental Health Team and the various inter-agency liaison meetings that had taken place between Hartlepool Borough Council, residents, representatives from the Port Authority and other statutory government bodies.
- 5.3 Members were interested to learn that over the years there had been a number of reported problems with noise and dust emanating from the Port and when problems had arisen and complaints received by Hartlepool Borough Council, investigations had been carried out and measures put in place to alleviate the noise and dust problems.
- 5.4 The Principal Environmental Health Officer informed the Forum that between September 2008 and January 2009 there had been no complaints received by

the Department relating to dust and noise complaints in connection with activities on the Port. However, since 20 January 2009 there had been a number of complaints concerning 'brown spots on windows' and accumulations of dust.

- 5.5 In order to determine the health risks of the accumulations of dust the Principal Environmental Health Officer presented the Forum with **Table1** (below) which demonstrated that a number of dust samples had been gathered throughout July and September 2009, taken in a number of different locations and weather conditions. These samples had been sent away for independent testing and the results showed levels of iron and titanium that were akin to levels of iron and titanium found in dust deposits elsewhere in the Town. Forum Members were informed that further sampling had been carried out in other locations on the Headland and that these results were due at the end of October 2009.

Table1: Results of Dust Samples

Weekly Samples
Daily Samples

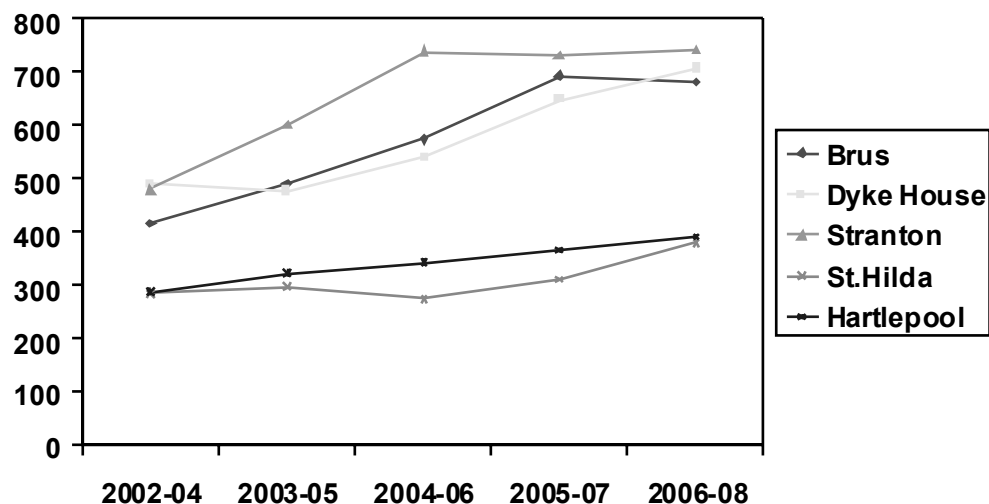
		Iron	Titanium	Cadmium	Lead	Chromium	Arsenic	Mercury
27/07/2009	9 Seaview Terrace	100-200mg/kg	100-200mg/kg	None	None	None	None	None
28/07/2009	9 Seaview Terrace	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
17/08/2009	18 Thorpe Street	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
17/08/2009	18 Thorpe Street	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
17/08/2009	9 Seaview Terrace	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
17/08/2009	127 Northgate	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
20/08/2009	9 Seaview Terrace	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
20/08/2009	8 Town Wall	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
20/08/2009	127 Northgate	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
20/08/2009	18 Thorpe Street	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
09/09/2009	9 Seaview Terrace	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
09/09/2009	8 Town Wall	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
09/09/2009	18 Thorpe Street	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None
09/09/2009	127 Northgate	Trace	Trace	None	None	None	None	None

- 5.6 The Health Scrutiny Forum Members were also interested to learn that along with the sampling of dust deposits, the Council also assess the level of PM10 (Particulate Matter, 10 microns in diameter) which are those particulates that can enter the lungs. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) sets an annual acceptable mean level of PM10s as 40 μgm^3 (microgrammes per cubic metre), monitoring on the Headland in 2001 had returned an annual mean of 24 μgm^3 , which Members recognised as being well within the acceptable level dictated by DEFRA.

Evidence from Executive Director of Public Health

- 5.7 Members of the Health Scrutiny Forum were delighted to receive a presentation at their meeting on 27 October 2009, from the Executive Director of Public Health, NHS Tees in relation to a recent investigation he had undertaken into the health of residents on the Headland in Hartlepool. After being contacted by a St Hilda Ward Councillor and hearing concerns from local residents, the Executive Director of Public Health had agreed to look into health issues on the Headland and to ascertain if there was a trend that could be linked to the dust deposits.
- 5.8 The Executive Director of Public Health explained to Members that the methodology behind researching the health of the residents of the Headland was to examine data relating to respiratory, skin and liver disease as the most likely health complications to arise from contact with dust deposits.
- 5.9 The Forum was particularly interested in data gathered relating to hospital admission for respiratory illness, as detailed in **Graph1** below. This evidence indicated very clearly that in comparison to neighbouring wards and the whole of Hartlepool, residents of the Headland were less likely to be admitted to hospital with lower respiratory disease.

Graph1: Directly age-standardised hospital admission rate per 100,000 for lower respiratory disease (J40-J45) in Hartlepool 2002-2008



- 5.10 In relation to **Graph1** (above) a question was raised about the location of the scrap metal pile 20 years ago, as being on the site of the Marina. With the site of the Marina falling into the Stranton Ward, it was queried if such high figures for hospital admission for lower respiratory disease could be caused by a delay in action of the dust, similar to the length of time for cases of asbestosis. The Executive Director of Public Health stated that scientifically it was not possible to determine if the previous location of the scrap pile had a health effect on residents in that area, with other factors such as smoking being more

likely for the high numbers of respiratory disease in that ward. In addition it was scientifically unsound to speculate on the scrap metal pile causing respiratory disease, when current figures for the Headland did not prove a current link between the location of the scrap pile and respiratory disease.

- 5.11 The evidence gathered from the Headland Medical Practice also equally demonstrated to Members that there was not enough statistical difference of excessive health problems in relation to dermatitis, eczema, respiratory disease, liver, skin and respiratory diagnoses to conclude that the dust deposits were causing health problems for the residents of the Headland. However, the Executive Director for Public Health had agreed to look into cancer data, although it was noted by the Forum that it would be usual to find a correlation between respiratory or skin diseases and cases of cancer when the contaminate was airborne.

Evidence from Health Protection Agency

- 5.12 The Consultant in Health Protection from the Health Protection Agency had provided written evidence to the Health Scrutiny Forum at their meeting of 27 October 2009. The Consultant in Health Protection highlighted to Members the role of the Health Protection Agency and that they supported the evidence provided by the Executive Director of Public Health. However, in background papers received by the Forum, Members noted that in inter-agency meeting on 8 September 2008 the Health Protection Agency had stated that with the Headland being a deprived ward, that there were links between the health of the people and the deprivation of the area.

Evidence from Residents of the Headland

- 5.13 When the Health Scrutiny Forum met on 27 October 2009, the residents of the Headland and surrounding areas provided the Members of the Forum with detailed evidence both verbal, and in photographic form and reiterated their concern of the problems of dust deposits by presenting the Chair of the Health Scrutiny Forum with a signed petition.
- 5.14 The verbal evidence presented by residents stated a belief that the dust deposits were causing lung and skin problems, as well as an associated rise in stress caused by noise from the port area and damage to windows, cars and other property from the dust deposits. There was also concern raised by residents about the damping operations that were designed to spray water over the scrap metal to reduce dust emissions, but that the run off was potentially causing environmental damage to marine life that had yet to be investigated. It was clear to Members of the Forum that levels of frustration from residents of the Headland and surrounding area was high and that trust was at an all time low.
- 5.15 Members of the Health Scrutiny Forum were shown a video which demonstrated the loading of scrap metal onto a ship in the port and dust emissions from activity, which was described as not meeting the procedures

outlined when loading scrap metal onto boats. During the video it was reiterated to Members of the Forum that residents were suffering from the anxiety and stress due to the constant need to clean windows, carpets, curtains and other areas where the dust was accumulating.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The Health Scrutiny Forum concluded:-
- 6.2 That it is recognised that there is a problem with dust deposits from the Port area, that not only has it been a historical problem, but after a hiatus of complaints to the Council, there was currently a reoccurrence of dust problems affecting residents of the Headland;
- 6.3 That evidence gathered by the Executive Director of Public Health concluded that there was no evidence to suggest the dust deposits were causing respiratory, liver or skin diseases in residents of the Headland;
- 6.4 That issues around levels of cancer need further analysis before a view could be reached in relation to any possible links to dust deposits;
- 6.5 That it was scientifically impossible and unsound to conclude that the previous location for the scrap metal pile was the cause behind levels of respiratory disease in the Stranton area of Hartlepool;
- 6.6 That so far sampling of dust deposits on the Headland were consistent with the content of general dust; and
- 6.7 That concerns in relation to the potential damage to property, the environment, the possible statutory nuisance and any operational deficiencies arising from Port operations were noted, but it was recognised that these went beyond the limitations of the function of the Health Scrutiny Forum.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The Health Scrutiny Forum has taken evidence from a wide range of sources to assist in the formulation of a balanced range of recommendations. The Committee's key recommendations to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee are as outlined below:-
 - (a) That the Health Scrutiny Forum receives results of further investigations into dust deposits on the Headland:-
 - (i) By the Executive Director of Public Health into cancer rates;

- (ii) By the Hartlepool Borough Council's Environmental Health Service into further samples of dust, due end of October 2009.
- (b) That a further scrutiny investigation be carried out into the dust deposits on the Headland and surrounding areas by an appropriate committee / forum with reference to the following areas:-
 - (i) Examination into the potential damage to properties, the environment and any possible statutory nuisance of Port activities;
 - (ii) Consultation with the Port workforce and exploration of possible options in terms of enforcement, ensuring that any operational deficiencies on the Port site are not repeated; and
 - (iii) Exploration into the role of the Environment Agency as the legally responsible body for the regulation of the operating permit of activities in the Port.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

8.1 The Committee is grateful to all those who have presented evidence during the course of our investigation. We would like to place on record our appreciation, in particular of the willingness and co-operation we have received from the below named:-

Hartlepool Borough Council

Councillor Peter Jackson, Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Communities;

Councillor Ged Hall, Portfolio Holder for Adult and Public Health Services;

Dave Stubbs, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods;

Adrian Hurst, Principal Environmental Health Officer;

Sylvia Tempest, Environmental Standards Manager.

External Representatives

Members of the public who participated and contributed throughout the investigation and at the meeting of the Health Scrutiny Forum held in the Borough Hall on 27 October 2009;

Professor Peter Kelly, Executive Director of Public Health, NHS Tees;

Paul Quayle, QA/SHE Manager, Heerema Hartlepool Ltd;

Mr Alan Lloyd, Construction Manager, Heerema Hartlepool Ltd;

Ken Smith, Operations Director, PD Ports;

Ian Baxter, Regional Manager, Van Dalen Hartlepool Ltd;

Mr Ashby, Van Dalen Hartlepool Ltd; and

Mr M Bardon, Van Dalen Hartlepool Ltd.

**COUNCILLOR JONATHAN BRASH
CHAIR OF THE HEALTH SCRUTINY FORUM**

December 2009

Contact Officer:- James Walsh – Scrutiny Support Officer
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:-

- (i) Report of the Scrutiny Manager entitled 'Dust on the Headland – Request for Scrutiny Investigation' presented to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 9 October 2009.
- (ii) Report of the Scrutiny Manager entitled 'Dust Deposits on the Headland – Covering Report' presented to the Health Scrutiny Forum of 27 October 2009.
- (iii) Report of the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods entitled 'Dust Deposits on the Headland' presented to the Health Scrutiny Forum of 27 October 2009.
- (iv) Presentation by the Executive Director of Public Health entitled 'An Overview of Health on the Headland in Hartlepool' received by the Health Scrutiny Forum of 27 October 2009.
- (v) Minutes of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee of 9 October 2009.
- (vi) Minutes of the Health Scrutiny Forum of 27 October 2009.

HEALTH SCRUTINY FORUM

10 November 2009



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: ALCOHOL ABUSE - PREVENTION AND
TREATMENT – PREVENTATIVE SERVICES –
COVERING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with an introduction to the evidence gathering session around Preventative Services as part of this Forum's investigation into 'Alcohol Abuse – Prevention and Treatment'.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of this Forum on 1 September 2009, the Terms of Reference and Potential Areas of Inquiry / Sources of Evidence were approved by the Forum for this scrutiny investigation into 'Alcohol Abuse – Prevention and Treatment'.
- 2.2 Subsequently at today's meeting a number of presentations will be received by Members of the Health Scrutiny Forum surrounding those organisations involved in Preventative Services aimed at combating alcohol abuse and misuse.
- 2.3 Detailed below are the organisations and representatives who have agreed to provide evidence on their involvement in Preventative Services:-
- (a) **Balance North East** – the North East alcohol office providing evidence on their strategic role in the North East, their educational campaigns and social marketing approach to alcohol consumption;
 - (b) **Hartlepool Primary Care Trust** – the local PCT providing evidence on brief interventions, engaging with GPs as the first step before treatment for alcohol abuse / misuse;

- (c) **Assistant Director (Community Safety and Protection)** – providing evidence on the targeted work in preventing alcohol abuse in Hartlepool looking at Straight-Line the alcohol awareness programme, AS13 Forms issued during situations of Anti-Social Behaviour, drink banning orders, Youth Crime Action Plan (YCAP) and Operation Stay Safe; and
- (d) **Parenting Commissioner** – providing evidence on the proposed young person substance misuse plan, the parenting strategy and the impact of the Think Family reforms.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Members note the content of this report and the presentations from the representatives detailed in section 2.3, seeking clarification on any relevant issues where felt appropriate.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:-

- (i) Report of the Scrutiny Manager titled 'Scrutiny Investigation into 'Alcohol Abuse – Prevention and Treatment' – Scoping Report,' presented at the meeting of the Health Scrutiny Forum of 1 September 2009.

HEALTH SCRUTINY FORUM

1 December 2009



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: TEES VALLEY HEALTH SCRUTINY JOINT
COMMITTEE - UPDATE

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of issues discussed at meetings of the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee held since the last meeting of the Health Scrutiny Forum on 10 November 2009.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 A summary is provided below of the issues discussed at a recent Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee Meeting held on 16 November 2009. Further information on these issues is available from the Scrutiny Support Officer and where appropriate clarification can be sought from Hartlepool's Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee representatives who are present at today's meeting:-

- (i) Scrutiny of Health Outcomes Across the Tees Valley – The Joint Committee received a joint presentation by the Executive Director for Public Health and the Chief Executive for NHS Tees (the collective name for the four PCTs serving Teesside). The presentation responded to five questions surrounding tackling health outcomes, commissioning services and the need for efficiency savings, the over reliance on acute services, why the North East has best performing health services yet outcomes for people are among the worst in England¹ and if there are any major areas for improvement. Major areas that the Executive Director for Public Health highlighted needed to be addressed included cancer, respiratory disease (mainly linked to smoking), cardiovascular disease, rising harm due to alcohol, obesity epidemic, mental health and teenage pregnancy. Distance from target figures were also discussed, with Hartlepool PCT being 4.3% under their Department for Health target figure of funding.

¹ Evidence taken from the Healthcare Commission's last round of assessments.

- (ii) North East Ambulance Service (NEAS): Contact Centre Update – The Members of the Joint Committee received an update from the Director of Strategy & Clinical Standards and the Head of Communications & Public Involvement from the NEAS. The Committee Members were informed that the move to the 'new' contact centre had seen an improvement in response targets for all life threatening emergency calls across the Teesside Division, however, there was further work being undertaken to improve response times in Redcar and Cleveland PCT area although higher than 2008 was under the Trustwise National Target.
- (iii) Improving Sexual Health Services: A Progress Update – Members of the Joint Committee received an update on improving sexual health services across the Teesside. Members noted that NHS Tees were currently working with Assura Stockton LLP to provide sexual health services, although the Committee commented that focus should not just be on the younger generation and that older people often need sexual health advice and support, but felt intimidated to seek help.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That Members note the content of the report and outline any possible comments in relation to the issues discussed which they would like the Chair to relay back to the Joint Committee on their behalf.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.