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## Health Scrutiny Committee

12 June 2006

### Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

## Selby and York Primary Care Trust and Measures to Restore Financial Balance

### Summary

1. This report is to ask members to consider how they will respond to Selby and York PCT's recovery plan and to decide how to ascertain the effects on services and their impact on the residents of York.

### Background

2. It was reported to the former Social Services and Health Scrutiny Board on 11 May 2006 that NHS Trusts in the area of the North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Strategic Health Authority were facing a total deficit of £40.4m for 2005/6
3. It was also noted at that meeting that the Selby and York Primary Care Trust has to make a £23m saving in this financial year.
4. In order to make these savings the PCT intends to:
  - a. Reduce GPs' referral rates to hospital for some specialties, which are currently much higher than the average for England.
  - b. Reduce the number of routine outpatient follow-up sessions in hospitals.
  - c. Reduce the numbers of procedures done at local hospitals to the national average for each procedure.

- d. Explore how to achieve more cost effective prescribing of drugs.
  - e. Consider the “thresholds” which are used to decide on whether hospital treatment is needed for a particular condition
  - f. Ceasing to do some procedures which are “cosmetic” or “social” unless there is a strong case for an exception to be made.
5. There may be a need for other measures such as the management of patients with long term conditions to reduce emergency admissions or to introduce thresholds for operative intervention.
6. A letter has been sent to all GPs in the PCT’s area (Annex A) along with the referral criteria and service thresholds (Annex B) and a leaflet for patients (Annex C).
7. Sheenagh Powell, the Acting Director of Finance and John Brown, the Assistant Director for Corporate Affairs at Selby and York PCT have been invited to discuss the proposed recovery plan.

### **Options**

8. Members should consider how they intend to scrutinise the PCT’s recovery plan and its implications for the citizens of York.
9. Members will need to determine with the PCT whether the proposed changes to services are substantial, and if so the nature of the consultation process that will take place.

### **Analysis**

10. This work is likely to impact on the timescale for new Scrutiny topics previously agreed by the former Social Services and Health Scrutiny Board such as Care for Heart Patients and Podiatry Services.
11. Guidance from the Department of Health States that in considering whether a proposal is substantial, NHS bodies, committees and stakeholders should consider the impact of the change on patients, carers and the public who may use the service. They should take into account changes in accessibility of services, the impact of the proposal on the wider community, the patients affected and the methods of service delivery.

## Implications

12. There are no known Financial, HR, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, IT or other implications at this stage.

## Risk Management

13. In compliance with the Councils risk management strategy. There are no risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

## Recommendations

14. Members are asked to agree the level of involvement and consultation they require with Selby and York PCT (North Yorkshire and York PCT from 1 October 2006) in relation to their financial recovery plans and the impact on services.

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Report Approved  Date

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

### Annexes

- Annex A – Letter from Selby and York PCT to all GPs dated 17 May 2006  
Annex B – Commissioning Effective, Efficient and Necessary Care Pathways (Selby and York PCT et al, May 2006)  
Annex C – Information on how we decide whether you need treatment (Selby and York PCT et al)

### Background Papers

None