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## Health Scrutiny Committee

6<sup>th</sup> October 2008

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic & Legal Services

### Health Scrutiny Networking

#### Summary

1. This report is to inform Members of the Committee about recent events attended by both Members and Officers outside of the formal meeting cycle of the Health Scrutiny Committee.

#### Background

2. Both Members and Officers attend events on a regular basis and in the past these have not been reported back to the Committee. Many of these events are directly linked with some of the work set out in the Committee's work plan.

#### Consultation

3. The following paragraphs detail the events and meetings that have taken place.

4. **Introductory meeting with North Yorkshire & York Primary Care Trust (16.06.2008)**

The Scrutiny Officer met with the Assistant Director, Corporate and Public Affairs at NYYPCT. He suggested that quarterly meetings be held with the NYYPCT, Scrutiny Officer, Chair & Vice-Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee, Acute Trust, LINKs (Local Involvement Networks) Host and the Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS). The Chair has asked us to put this on hold until it is known whether the Chapter 10 Group will be continuing.

5. **Regional Health Scrutiny Officer's Meeting (23.07.2008)**

Health Scrutiny Officer's across the Yorkshire and Humber meet on a regular basis. At a recent meeting they discussed progress in relation to adopting a protocol for Joint Health Scrutiny Committees. Discussions also took place about three workshops that were being planned in relation to LINKs and Regional Specialist Commissioning (08.09.2008), Consensus Building and Joint Health Scrutiny (03.10.2008) and Scrutinising Health Inequalities (07.10.2008). Chairs, Vice Chairs and Scrutiny Officers from across the region were invited to attend these events.

6. **Members' Visit to York Hospital (01.08.2008)**

The Head of Patient Flow facilitated a tour of several areas of the Hospital for the benefit of Members of the Health Scrutiny Committee.

7. **Meeting with NYYPCT (13.08.2008)**

The Chair, Vice Chair, Scrutiny Officer and Assistant Director of Commissioning and Service Development at NYYPCT met informally to discuss the best way of presenting updates on dental provision in York to the Committee. It was suggested that the Assistant Director of Commissioning and Service Development prepare a draft format for future reports. Further updates will follow on receipt of further information.

8. **Launch of York Carer's Forum (04.09.2008)**

The Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee and the Scrutiny Officer attended the above event. The York Carer's Forum has been established to support unpaid carers in York. Representatives from this forum also attended the Informal Evidence Gathering Session on 01.09.2008 and gave evidence in relation to their experiences of caring for people with dementia.

9. **Workshop on LINKs and Regional Specialist Commissioning**

The Chair and Scrutiny Officer attended this event, which had been organised by the Regional Health Scrutiny Officers' Network. Attendees heard from several Local Authorities and LINKs Hosts in relation to the stages they were at with establishing a LINK. Discussions were also had in relation to good working relationships between Health Scrutiny Committees and LINKs.

The Director of the Yorkshire & Humber Specialist Commissioning Group and the Regional Medical Advisor to the group gave an overview of their role and discussions were had regarding proposals for scrutinising specialist commissioning.

10. **Launch of York LINK (15.09.2008)**

The Chair and Scrutiny Officer attended this event. Attendees heard from the Chair of NYYPCT, the Chair of County Durham LINK Interim Steering Group, the Director of Housing & Adult Social Services at City of York Council and the Assistant Director, Corporate & Public Affairs at NYYPCT. Discussions took place in the form of workshops to investigate what changes needed to be made to improve local health and social care services. Common themes emerged such as lack of domestic support, respite care services, the importance of communication, personalisation of services, and using LINK as a 'voice' to represent carers.

11. **NYYPCT Annual General Meeting (AGM) (23.09.2008)**

The Chair of the Health Scrutiny meeting attended the above meeting and he reported that the Chief Executive of the NYYPCT, Janet Soo-Chung, looked forward to the PCT clearing the historic debt and resuming investing in new

initiatives for the benefit of patients throughout North Yorkshire and the City of York. Already improved community services were being provided in the treatment of eating disorders, musculo-skeletal conditions and a case management system (to guide a patient through the care pathways relevant to their condition).

The PCT was also “re-branding” themselves as NHS North Yorkshire & York, to emphasise their leadership role in the provision of healthcare throughout the county.

## **Options**

12. This report is for information only but Members may wish to consider whether they would like to receive further reports of this nature and if so how often.

## **Analysis**

13. Members and Officers who undertake work in relation to Health Scrutiny attend many events outside of the Committee’s formal meeting cycle. This report has been prepared for the purposes of transparency and information sharing.

## **Corporate Strategy**

14. This relates to the following Corporate Value:

‘Encouraging improvement in everything we do’.

## **Implications**

15. There are no known Financial, Human Resources, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, Information Technology, Property or other implications associated with this report.

## **Risk Management**

16. This report is for information only and there are no known risks associated with it.

## **Recommendations**

17. Members are requested to:

- i. Note the report
- ii. Consider whether they would like to receive further reports and at what intervals

Reason: To keep Members informed of events attended that are relevant to Health Scrutiny.

## Contact Details

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Report Approved  Date 26.09.2008

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)**

None

**Wards Affected:** *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:**

None

**Annexes**

None