

**HEALTH AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
13 DECEMBER, 2011**

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**DECOMMISSIONING POLICY TASK AND FINISH REVIEW GROUP – FINAL  
REPORT**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To present the outcome and findings of the Task and Finish Review Group established by the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee initiated to contribute to NHS County Durham and Darlington's review of their Decommissioning Policy.

**Summary**

2. The Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2011, agreed to establish a Task and Finish Review to look at the Decommissioning Policy being reviewed by NHS County Durham and Darlington.
3. The Task and Finish Review Group has met on two occasions with Officers from NHS County Durham and Darlington and its final report of the Group is attached (**Appendix 1**).

**Recommendation**

4. It is recommended that Members approve the recommendation in the final report.

**Paul Wildsmith  
Director of Resources**

**Background Papers**

NHS County Durham and Darlington Decommissioning Policy  
Abbie Metcalfe: Extension 2365

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder.
Health and Well Being	This report has implications to address Health and Well Being for the residents of Darlington.
Sustainability	There are no issues relating to Sustainability which this report needs to address.
Diversity	There are no issues relating to diversity which this report needs to address.
Wards Affected	This report does not impact on a particular Ward, but Darlington as a whole.
Groups Affected	This report does not impact on a particular Group, but Darlington residents as a whole.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not recommend a change to the Council's Budget or Policy Framework.
Key Decision	This is not a Key Decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an Urgent Decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This links to the Theme 3 "Healthy Darlington". Specifically addressing health inequalities to narrow the gaps in health and well-being and life expectancy.
Efficiency	This report does not identify specific efficiency savings.

## MAIN REPORT

### Introduction

1. This is the final report of the Decommissioning Policy Task and Finish Review Group which was established by the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee to look at NHS County Durham and Darlington's Decommissioning Policy.

### Background Information

2. The Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2011, agreed to establish a Task and Finish Review to look at the Decommissioning Policy being reviewed by NHS County Durham and Darlington.
3. Since then, the Task and Finish Review Group have met on two occasions and this report outlines the outcome of the findings.

### Membership of the Review Group

4. Councillor Newall; and  
Councillor J. Taylor.

### Acknowledgements

5. The Review Group acknowledges the support and assistance provided in the course of their investigation and would like to place on record their thanks to the following :-

Ms Mary Bewley, Head of Communications and Involvement, NHS County Durham and Darlington;

Mr. Ian Makinson, Deputy Director Commercial Services, NHS County Durham and Darlington;

Ms Kaeti Seth, Commissioning/Contracts Manager NHS County Durham and Darlington; and  
Miss. Abbie Metcalfe, Democratic Officer,.

### Methods of Investigation

6. The Review Group met on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2011 and 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2011 with Officers from NHS County Durham and Darlington. The first meeting explored decommissioning and the difference between proactive and reactive decommissioning; considered the circumstances and degrees of decommissioning and specific tools used to decommission services.
7. At the second meeting, Members focussed on the difference between the duty to consult and the requirements of the legally binding contract; the concept of materiality and the process where service provision is commissioned by another NHS body and/or span the oversight of more than one Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## **Conclusion**

8. Members expressed their views to Officers and those views have been taken on board and used to influence the Decommissioning Policy.
9. From the work the Group have undertaken, we are satisfied that the policy and methods of engagement and communication with the Scrutiny Committee is satisfactory and that no further work is required.

## **Recommendation**

10. It is recommended :-
  - (a) That the Officers be thanked for the attendance at meetings;
  - (b) That the views of Members be used to influence the Decommissioning Policy; and
  - (c) That no further action be undertaken by this Task and Finish Review Group.

## **Decommissioning Policy Task and Finish Review Group**