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**OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Social Affairs and Health Scrutiny Committee has undertaken :-
  - (a) **Work Programme 2005/06**– We have given further consideration to our work programme for this year and have programmed in a special meeting to consider proposals to merge the County Durham and Darlington and Tees and North East Yorkshire NHS Trusts. We will also continue to review the Forward Plan in adding to the work programme.
  - (b) **Children and Adult Services Performance Indicators** – Following Members’ requests to look at some specific performance information we received an overview of the factors influencing our performance against indicators in respect of the stability of looked after children and waiting times for assessment and care packages of adults.
  - (c) **Out-of-Hours Services** – We have considered a comprehensive report on the new out-of-hours services for primary medical care and considered recommendations for the introduction of some new systems and discussed areas, which need strengthening further. We look forward to being advised of any change in trends and further areas of development as this service progresses.
  - (d) **Transport for Health Partnership** – Is it pleasing to report progress by the Transport for Health Partnership, especially in linking health to the Local Transport Plan and undertaking a number of actions to improve access to healthcare services. We have agreed to re-convene the Health Group of the Transport Review to look in more detail at some of the issues raised and welcome the opportunity to get involved in a workshop on the health impact assessment of the Accessibility Strategy.
  - (e) **Referral from PPCP Scrutiny Committee – Official Checks on Council Properties and the Safety and Protection of Occupants** – Following the consideration of this valuable piece of work which investigated the processes in place for officials visiting Council properties, we have made a number of recommendations. These include that this issue be progressed further by the Growing Older Living in Darlington (GOLD) Group and that a publicity campaign be launched to raise awareness of the steps that should be taken to improve the safety and protection of the occupants of Council properties.
  - (f) **Nursing Mothers Review Group – Darlington: A Breastfeeding Friendly Town** – This Group is currently organising its formal scrutiny interviews following the awareness raising activities and mailshot undertaken throughout April and May. We look forward to receiving the consultants’ report on the findings of their survey and

focus groups in early August and will make a formal presentation to the whole Committee at a special meeting on 6th September, 2005.

- (g) **Obesity in Children Task and Finish Review Group – Final Report** – Members reported on the findings of this Task and Finish Review, which those who participated had thoroughly enjoyed. The findings raise a number of important issues in tackling the problem of obesity in children and the information will be used as a basis for a more in-depth review in the coming Municipal Year.
- (h) **Employment Opportunities for People with Learning Disabilities – Task and Finish Review Group – Update** – The terms of reference have been set and work is ongoing for what promises to be a rewarding Task and Finish Review.

**Councillor Mrs. Marian Swift**  
**Chair, Social Affairs and Health Scrutiny Committee**