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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 agreed to undertake a joint piece of work on the patient experience in GP surgeries with Darlington PCT’s Patient and Public Involvement Forum. We will also be holding a joint meeting with PPCP Scrutiny Committee over the coming weeks to look at the issue of tobacco control.
  - (b) **Clean Your Hands Campaign for Infection Control** – We received an informative update from County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust on the implementation of the National Patient Safety Agency Alert “ Clean Hands Help to Save Lives”. We were pleased to hear that the campaign has had a positive effect on improving hand hygiene and were encouraged by a number of eye-catching posters, leaflets and badges aimed to raise awareness with staff, relatives and patients.
  - (c) **Demoted Tenancy Agreements for Council Tenants** - As a result of the new powers now available to the Council under the Anti-Social Behaviour and Nuisance Act 2003, Members have considered and commented on the Council’s powers to apply to the Court to reduce the security of tenure for Council tenants to a Demoted Order where appropriate.
  - (d) **Disabled Facilities Grants – Update** – We have been updated on the position regarding the delivery and administration of Disabled Facilities Grants and are pleased to note that there is no longer a backlog. Members will however, continue to take an interest in the financial position for 2006/07 and beyond as part of the Council’s overall budget process.
  - (e) **Domestic Violence – Progress Report** – It is pleasing to report that much progress has been made by the Domestic Violence Co-ordinator during the past year, including the ongoing work with young people who wish to translate the joint domestic violence policy into a document appropriate for children and young people. Members have also endorsed a change of terminology from Domestic Violence to Domestic Abuse to more adequately reflect the experiences of victims.
  - (f) **Nursing Mothers Review Group – Darlington: A Breastfeeding Friendly Town** – This Group is in the process of its formal scrutiny interviews and we look forward to receiving the consultants’ report on the findings of their survey and focus groups in a

formal presentation to the whole Committee at a special meeting on 6th September, 2005.

- (g) **Employment Opportunities for People with Learning Disabilities – Task and Finish Review Group – Update** – Work is ongoing to build on the existing partnership working between the Council and Morrison Enterprise Trust.

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