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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) **Regional Summary of the North East Patient and Public Involvement Forums Annual Report 2004/05** – A special meeting was held to consider the work of PPI Forums across the North East Region and their plans for 2005/06.
  - (b) **‘Food For Thought’ – An Investigation of Catering across County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust** – The Chair of the Acute Hospitals Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Forum presented the findings of the Forum’s investigation of catering standards across different parts of the Acute Trust and Members were particularly pleased to note the high standards of hygiene and cleanliness observed in the kitchens of Darlington Memorial Hospital.
  - (c) **Teenage Pregnancy ‘Bump and Baby’ Group** – We received an informative presentation from Sure Start Midwives on the excellent work of this Group, however, there was some concern over the data collection in respect of Under 18 conception rates across the Borough which will be followed up at a future meeting.
  - (d) **Commissioning a Patient-led NHS** – Colin Morris, Chief Executive, Darlington PCT advised the Committee on the current 14-week consultation process on the reconfiguration of PCTs across the North East and discussed the rationale behind the restructure in order to create a local structure fit for purpose. An overview of the two options out to consultation was given and Members were encouraged to attend the public consultation event on Monday, 16th January, 2006 from 1.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. in Central Hall of the Dolphin Centre. A special meeting of the Social Affairs and Health Scrutiny Committee will also be held at 9.30 .m. on Tuesday, 31st January, 2006 at 9.30 a.m. in the Council Chamber.
  - (e) **Parkgate Surgery – Review of Provider Services** – The Committee has considered the proposed future options for this practice and the associated timescales and a Task and Finish Review Group has been established to shadow the developments.
  - (f) **Adult Services Annual Performance Letter** – The Committee congratulated the Adult Services Department on the results of its annual review from the Commission for Social Care Inspection, which judged the service as serving most people well with promising capacity for improvement.

- (g) **Children's Services Annual Performance Letter** – The Committee congratulated the Children's Services Department on the results of its annual review from the Commission for Social Care Inspection, which judged the service as serving most people well with excellent capacity for improvement.
- (h) **Housing Advice and Homelessness Services – Moving to a Housing Options Service** – Members have commented on the approach being taking in moving to a housing options service and a Task and Finish Review has been established to consider the Council's policy on tenancy successions, the recommendations of which will be reported back to the Scrutiny Committee in due course.
- (i) **Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy** – Six monthly progress from April 2005 to October 2005 was reported on the Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy actions that come with the remit of Social Affairs and Health and much good progress has been made in relation to health and housing issues.
- (j) **Employment Opportunities for People with a Learning Disability Task and Finish Review – Update** – Work continues on this Review in conjunction with Morrison's Enterprise Trust, Economic Regeneration and the Council's Communications Team.
- (k) **CRB Checks in the NHS Task and Finish Review – Update** – The terms of reference for this Review have been agreed and meetings will be held with NHS representatives over the coming weeks.
- (l) **Darlington: A Breastfeeding Friendly Town – Final Report** – It is pleasing to report that following a number of positive comments received by CMT, Darlington Partnership and local NHS Trusts, the recommendations of this Review Group were approved by Cabinet on 29th November 2005.

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