

**THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
HELD ON FRIDAY, 28 OCTOBER, 2005**

**Present:** Councillor R Burnip (Chair)  
Councillors P J Campbell, J Haggan,  
B Joyce and Mrs S Mason

**1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors C Patching, W R Peardon, Mrs B A Sloan and R G Wharrier.

The Scrutiny Support Manager advised that Councillor Patching had declared an interest in the matter as he was a Non-Executive Director of Easington Primary Care Trust Board (PCT).

**2 EASINGTON PRIMARY CARE TRUST (PCT)-INTERIM DECLARATION AGAINST THE CORE STANDARDS**

The Chair introduced Michael Houghton, Head of Health Governance of Easington PCT who was in attendance to discuss the Easington PCT Interim Declaration against the Core Standards.

He commenced by explaining that this was the first time the Health Service had introduced standards for health quality. There were two sets of standards; core standards which described an acceptable level of service patients should expect from the NHS and developmental standards which were designed to promote continuous improvement in the quality of services. Within these standards there were seven domains:-

- Safety
- Clinical and cost effectiveness
- Governance
- Patient focus
- Accessible and responsive care
- Care environment and amenities
- Public health.

He then proceeded to outline how the PCT would be inspected and regulated in the future by the Healthcare Commission and outlined the work underway by the PCT. To date, a baseline assessment had been carried out and an Action Plan prepared. The PPI Forum had been invited to make comments on the interim declaration and comments and suggestions had been sought from the public and patients.

He advised that improvement reviews would be carried out which were designed to monitor the performance against the developmental standards. A review into tobacco control would commence in November with further reviews on children's hospital services, substance misuse, adult community mental health, MRSA and heart failure in forthcoming months.

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M Houghton referred Members to the Easington PCT Board report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member. The report detailed the process undertaken to carry out the baseline assessment, set out who would be consulted on the declaration and the PCT's approach to meeting the core standards. The interim declaration form against meeting the core standards was attached to the report. Of the 47 components to the 24 core standards assurances had been received by the Board that 46 of these had been met without a significant lapse. The PCT was therefore compliant with 23 out of the 24 core standards. The one core standard which the Board did not meet was that relating to the management of medical devices. It was hoped that this would be met by March 2006.

He then referred Members to the declaration form which detailed comments from stakeholders including those of the County Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

He explained that for 2005/06 the Health Care Commission had allowed Trusts to put in an interim declaration. This would be submitted on Monday, 31 October, 2005 and between November and December the Health Care Commission would check the information submitted. An inspection of organisations at risk of not meeting the core standards would be carried out and 10% of Primary Care Trusts would be randomly selected for inspection. This interim declaration covered April to September 2005 and the PCT would be required to produce a final declaration covering the full year. Therefore before April 2006, the Scrutiny Committee would receive a further declaration for comments. A performance rating, similar to the CPA approach, was expected by October 2006.

The Chair thanked Michael Houghton for his presentation who left the meeting.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that:-

- (a) the Vice-Chair of the Scrutiny Committee and the Scrutiny Support Manager formulate a response to the declaration on behalf of the Committee and send it to the PCT;
- (b) a copy of the response be circulated to Members of the Committee.

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2 November 2005