

**Committee:** SCRUTINY 1  
**Date:** 19 MARCH 2003  
**Agenda Item No:** 7  
**Title:** HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PARTNERSHIP FORUM  
**Author:** Will Cockerell (01799) 510581

### **Summary**

- 1 This report provides Members with information on the formation of a Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel to examine Non Urgent Patient Transport Services.

### **Background**

- 2 Following the completion of the first examination by the Partnership Forum into Delayed Discharges from Hospital, the Forum has decided to study non-urgent patient transport services within the Essex County and Thurrock Administrative Areas.
- 3 The project has four objectives:-
  - To investigate the extent to which transport issues contribute to patients missing health appointments.
  - To investigate avoidable inequality of access to health services in a consistent and adequately measured way and to recommend a minimum acceptable standard of provision.
  - To review the extent to which transport issues are featured within the criteria by which facility-siting decisions are taken, and the extent to which these decisions impose costs on patients, relatives and other public bodies To review the conclusions which are reached and make recommendations about the improvement of these.
  - To develop a priority list of areas or facilities in need of transport improvement action, to improve access to health facilities and levels of patient satisfaction.
- 4 The study will focus on non-urgent transport provision for patients and will be limited to secondary and intermediate care facilities.

- 5 The study will investigate the extent to which transport issues contribute to patients missing health appointments, and avoidable inequality in access to health services.
- 6 The study will also review the extent to which transport issues feature in decisions as to where health facilities are sited, the funding arrangements and whether the costs of travel acts as a barrier to patients attending health appointments.
- 7 The Panel's next meeting is set for 20 March 2003 when it will receive a literature review and discuss which witnesses to call.

RECOMMENDED that the Committee welcome the study into non-urgent patient transport in Essex and considers whether to submit evidence to the Panel.

Background Papers: none