

THE NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

ENT SERVICES FOR GATESHEAD – CONSULTATION

Governors are advised that the NHS “South of Tyne and Wear” Integrated Board has approved a public consultation on the future of ENT services in the Gateshead area. As such, a report was submitted to both the Gateshead and Sunderland Overview and Scrutiny Committees in week commencing 7<sup>th</sup> July 2008. This begins a three month consultation process.

The significance of the consultation is that the ENT service in Gateshead is currently provided by Newcastle Hospitals on an outreach basis and hence there is a real risk of the contract being terminated. The income stream value is £1.1 million.

It is becoming more apparent that of late, the NHS “South of Tyne” is endeavouring to focus more sub-specialist services from a Sunderland hub in serving the needs of Gateshead residents, rather than the long-established Gateshead – Newcastle connection. This recently arose for example when Specialist Haematology was switched from the Royal Victoria Infirmary to City Hospital Sunderland, with outreach to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead.

An update will be given at the meeting.

**Martin Pettifor**  
**Business Director**  
**11<sup>th</sup> July 2008**