Healthwatch Redcar and Cleveland
Catalyst House
27 Yarm Road
Stockton on Tees
TS18 3NJ
Tel 01642 688312
healthwatchredcarcleveland@pcp.uk.net
www.healthwatchredcarandcleveland.co.uk

healthwatch
Redcar and Cleveland

30th July 2014

Dear Lesley,

RE: IMProVE Consultation

Redcar and Cleveland Healthwatch have consulted with their membership and the wider public regarding the IMProVE consultation, to which generally, support is given to South Tees CCG proposals for the development of community services in the area. We particularly support the proposals including development of services from East Cleveland and Redcar Primary Care Hospitals, the latter being perceived by members of the community as an underutilised but potentially valuable healthcare asset. Engagement with local people has emphasised the underuse of current services provided at Redcar Primary Care Hospital including audiology, endoscopy and x-ray, causing patients to travel further to James Cook University Hospital (JCUH) to receive treatment. While accepting that 'high tech' investigations and treatment need to be carried out in centres of excellence such JCUH, many more basic investigations, treatments and follow up could be carried out at our two above named primary care hospitals to the benefit of our local population. This would also have the potential to reduce traffic congestion in the South Tees area with resultant health and economic benefits for the population as a whole.

The further development of Redcar Primary Care Hospital as an urgent care centre is also an initiative which this Healthwatch would strongly support, providing that supporting services such as radiography are also made available and that the hours of service provision are extended to enable it to be recognised by the community as an available alternative to JCUH for minor injuries. We do, however, have concerns about the proposal to close minor injuries services at East Cleveland Primary Care Hospital, predominantly due to the removal of the GP service/ walk-in centre in Skelton. Although underutilised at present, this service has the potential to provide for a socially disadvantaged community, many of whom, for example single parent families and pensioners, are not car owners and must rely on indifferent public transport provision. This is likely to impede the access of such people to the minor injuries service at Redcar Primary Care Hospital (or A & E at JCUH). Should it be necessary to close the minor injuries service at East Cleveland Primary Care Hospital, could it not be provided from some other permanent site by an alternative agency within East Cleveland to enable it to be recognised as a minor injuries service by the local community?

Yours Sincerely

Dr Ian Holtby- Chair of Healthwatch Redcar and Cleveland