
OVERVIEW OF THE SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work undertaken by the Social Affairs and Health Scrutiny Committee: -
 - (a) **Oral Healthcare of Children in Darlington – Future Direction** – A special meeting was held with the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee to discuss the future direction of this Review and it was agreed that some preparatory work be undertaken through a Task and Finish Review on Obesity in Children, with a view to this area being the main review in the Municipal Year 2005/06.
 - (b) **County Durham and Darlington Priority Services NHS Trust – Annual Report** – We received a comprehensive and informative report from Sandy Taylor, Chief Executive, County Durham and Darlington Priority Services NHS Trust, on its activities during the year. The meeting was held at the new West Park Hospital, which provides 116 beds and state of the art facilities for working age adults and the elderly with mental health problems.
 - (c) **Crisis Intervention** – We also received an update on the developments of the Crisis Intervention/Home Treatment Services, which are now available 24 hours a day, 365 days and year. These services enable users in times of crisis to have the option of either being admitted to hospital or to be cared for in their own homes.
 - (d) **NSF for Older People and GOLD Project Team –Update** – It is pleasing to report the progress made in relation to the National Service Framework for Older People and the Growing Older Living in Darlington Integrated Strategy for Older People and the move to a more overarching organisational leadership. We look forward to future updates on this matter.
 - (e) **Supporting People Five Year Strategy** – We have also been consulted on the draft of the Five Year Supporting People Strategy, which offers vulnerable people the opportunity to improve quality of their life by providing a stable environment and greater independence.
 - (f) **Landlord Accreditation Scheme** – Support of the Scrutiny Committee has also been given to the introduction of a Private Sector Accredited Lettings Scheme for Darlington.
 - (g) **Darlington: A Breastfeeding Friendly Town** – Following our successful scoping exercise on 1st December, 2004, the Steering Group has met on two occasions and is progressing the work of the Review. I have also been invited to facilitate a workshop on breastfeeding and returning to work, with the Head of Health Improvement at Darlington PCT, at a forthcoming conference hosted by Coventry City Council on 20th

January, 2005.

- (h) **Transport Review – Social Care Group** – As part of preparations for the Medium Term Financial Plan, an options paper in respect of social care transport is being prepared by the Social Services Directorate into which the findings of the Review Group to date will be incorporated. As such, this work of this Group has been put on hold awaiting the outcome of this paper.

Councillor Mrs. Swift
Chair Social Affairs and Health Scrutiny Committee