
OVERVIEW OF 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) **Proposals to Reconfigure Hospital Based Continuing Health Care Provision in the South of the County – Darlington, Durham Dales and Sedgfield** – Sandy Taylor, Chief Executive, County Durham and Darlington Priority Services NHS Trust attended our special meeting to advise that proposals in relation to the reconfiguration of in-patient continuing health care provision would no longer be progressed, and apologised for any uncertainty that the proposals had caused to patients and carers.
 - (b) **North Lodge Park – Opening of Play Area** – Following the influential work of this Scrutiny Committee in partnership with our fellow members of the Environment Scrutiny Committee, we were pleased to be invited to the opening of the new play area at North Lodge Park which took place on 17th August, 2004, and hope that the children in Darlington enjoy the inclusive play facilities provided in North Lodge Park for many years to come.
 - (c) **Healthy Living Centre** – Members received an interesting presentation on the aims and objectives of the Healthy Living Centre Project at Maidendale House, which we hope, that through tackling the root causes of poor health will improve the quality of life and address health inequalities of local residents in the Eastbourne, Lascelles, Bank Top and Lingfield Wards which are targeted by the project.
 - (d) **Annual Report on the Operation and Effectiveness of the Compliments, Comments, Suggestions and Complaints Policy and Procedure 2003-2004** – Following the consideration of the seventh annual report on the operations and effectiveness of this policy, the Committee noted a slight decrease in the amount of feedback received by the Social Services Department since 2003, Also that of the 34% of feedback in the form of a complaint, 98% of these were successfully resolved at stage 1.
 - (e) **Nursing Mothers Review Group – Darlington: A Breastfeeding Friendly Town** – I am delighted to report that the Committee’s bid for project funding has been successful and that Darlington is the only authority in the region, and one of only nine nationally to be awarded £20,000 to undertake our innovative health scrutiny project to encourage the uptake and continuation of breastfeeding across the Borough. We will be meeting with representatives from the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) later this month and look forward to reporting the progress of the project at a future date.

- (f) **Transport Review – Update** – The Health and Social Care Groups of this Review have arranged to meet with the Director of Community Services and representatives of the PCT and Acute Trust to progress the review and options for transport services further.

- (g) **Delayed Discharge Task and Finish Review Group – Final Report** - It is also pleasing to report the successful outcomes of a recent task and finish review, which looked at the problems of delayed transfers of care. The Group commended the enthusiasm and commitment shown by the Social Services Department in tackling the problem of delays and reported that the number of delays reimbursable by Social Services had remained at zero from May to August, 2004.

Councillor Marian Swift
Chair of Social Affairs and Health Scrutiny Committee