

LONG TERM CONDITIONS

Introduction

1. This is the interim report of the Long Term Conditions Task and Finish Review Group to consider the Long Term Conditions workstream of County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Clinical Strategy.

Membership of the Review Group

2. Councillor E. A. Richmond (Chair) and Councillor S. Richmond.

Acknowledgements

The Task and Finish Review Group acknowledges the support and assistance provided in the course of their investigation and would like to place on record their thanks to the following :-

County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust – Specialist Services Manager and Carol Robinson, Service Integration Manager/AHP Lead;
Darlington Borough Council Mike Crawshaw Head of Cultural Services and Ian Thompson, Assistant Director of Community Services;
Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group Joanne Evans Commissioning Manager and Jackie Kay, Deputy Director;
NHS County Durham and Darlington, Ken Ross, Public Health Specialist and Abbie Metcalfe, Democratic Officer.

Methods of Investigation

3. The Task and Finish Review Group has met on six occasions and the notes of each meeting have been regularly reported to the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee.
4. At the first meeting, Members received an informative and detailed overview of the Long term Conditions workstream and the following key issues were highlighted
 - Integration of Service
 - Patient safety and patient experience
 - Workforce issues
 - Performance Indicators
 - There needs to be meaningful engagement with Local Authorities and the Voluntary Sector.
 - Programme of education with Care Homes and GPs about Long Term Conditions and how conditions can be managed in the community.
 - Members are interested to hear the views of patients before and after the service have been integrated.

- How members of the public can be encouraged to manage their long term condition and how to recognise symptoms.
 - That consideration be given to the possibility of using space at the Dolphin Centre to promote long term conditions on a rolling programme.
5. During the meeting a discussion ensued about treatment in community facilities and encouraging people to self-manage their Long Term Condition(s) within their own homes and community settings rather than visiting the GP practices or ultimately being admitted into hospital. The Dolphin Centre was mentioned as an accessible building within the centre of town which could be utilised.
 6. Given the magnitude of this subject Members agreed to give further thought as to how best to approach this piece of work.
 7. Members agreed to focus their work on the potential of utilising space at the Dolphin Centre as a one stop shop for Long Term Conditions, while continuing to receive updates on the others areas.
 8. Following the initial meeting, Members met with the Head of Cultural Services to explore whether using the Dolphin Centre was a viable option and Members were delighted to hear that it was and that work preliminary work has already commenced.
 9. Members agreed to meet all Partners to try and speed up the process and were keen not to loose momentum.
 10. At a meeting in May 2012, Members met with representatives from County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, Darlington Borough Council, Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS County Durham and Darlington Public Health Team and proposed:-

“That space at the Dolphin Centre be used as a one stop shop facility for health promotion/information advice and to carryout non-invasive health checks. Ideally this could be situated where the Tourist Information used to be located and NHS professionals could be present to meet members of the public on arrival at the Centre. There is also potential to explore the delivery of community based clinics with a focus on rehabilitation within the Dolphin Centre.

Members believe that the Dolphin Centre is seen by the public as a healthy place to visit which would encourage people to drop in to get their blood pressures checked, be weighed or BMI checked, etc. on their way to a class, use the gym or a swim. Staff could be available to sign post people to smoking cessation services, dietary advice, cardiac rehab, weight management and other services offered at the Dolphin Centre

By using the television screen publicity materials could be used to highlight (perhaps on a monthly basis) various long term conditions and the benefits of self-managing conditions.

Members are aware that people are more likely to voluntarily access non clinical venues in a town centre setting to receive advice/guidance on lifestyle choices rather than visit a GP waiting room.

Members believe that by introducing an all-encompassing partnership run health facility within a sports complex is very much in line with Government proposals of bringing public health within the responsibilities of Local Authorities from April 2013. If the initiative could be up and running as soon as possible we would be addressing the Marmot Report pertaining to adopting a life course framework for tackling the wider social determinants of health and reducing health inequalities (which remain the primes focus of the Scrutiny Committees work). In doing this localism will be at the heart of the new systems, with responsibilities, freedoms and funding being jointly developed wherever possible. A one stop shop facility of this nature would maximise the provision of a service through partnership and collaboration in accordance with the Darlington Single Needs Assessment 2010/2011, which Members of the Scrutiny Committee are fully aware and committing to.”

11. The meeting was a success with all Partners agreeing with the suggestion, in principle for the direction of travel for all organisations to work together, however, more detailed work was needed to develop a comprehensive and sustainable plan for interagency work within the Dolphin Centre.
12. It was also agreed that a report would be jointly prepared for consideration by each of the partners’ Governing Bodies for approval to undertake an internal review of the delivery and service priorities to enable the final agreed project model to be integrated into each Strategy in a joined up manner.
13. Members have received progress updates in July and September 2012 and are delighted that there has been a number of quick wins, including; consideration of expanding the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Programme which already exists at the Dolphin Centre to include Cardiac Rehabilitation Programme and hosting the DESOMND Diabetes Education Programme which commenced on 10th December 2012.
14. Members are aware that a sustainable integration will require a procurement process and will take time.

Conclusions to date

15. Members have welcomed the opportunity to work with Officers from a multitude of NHS organisations and assist in developing and shaping integrated services.

16. Members are delighted that Officers share their vision of maximising the potential of the Dolphin Centre with the aim of creating a hub of health and physical activities, which they believe will only enhance the very successful One Life Programme that has been running for a number of years.
17. Members understand the financial difficulty that this Council and NHS organisations are facing but accept that an integrated solution will drive efficiencies and make savings.
18. Members believe there are potential opportunities that arise out of the new NHS reforms and the current financial position in the public sector in relation to the use of public sector assets and buildings in the collocation or direct delivery of a range of services by NHS providers in the future.
19. From the work the Group have undertaken, we are satisfied that an enormous amount of progress has been made, however, we would like to see more progress and a service specialisation developed to enable tenders to be sought in the next financial year and therefore, would like to continue this piece of work.

Recommendations

20. That work continues to explore how in the long term the Dolphin Centre can be used to facilitate education programmes, prevention workshops and screening for long term conditions with NHS organisations working in partnership with this Council.
21. That any immediate transportation of services/education programmes be carried out as soon as possible to maximise the potential of using the facilities at the Dolphin Centre which will improve access and the patient experience as a whole.
22. That the Task and Finish Review Group continues to meet regularly to monitor the progress that Officers are making.

Long Term Conditions Task and Finish Review Group