

## SURGERY

### Introduction

1. This is the Interim Report of the Surgery Task and Finish Review Group to consider the Surgery workstream of County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Clinical Strategy.

### Membership of the Review Group

2. Councillors Regan (Chair), I. Hazseldine and Councillor S. Richmond.

### Acknowledgements

3. 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, Janet Sedgewick, Associate Chief Operating Officer and Abbie Metcalfe, Democratic Officer.

### Methods of Investigation

4. The Task and Finish Review Group has met on two occasions and the notes of each meeting have been regularly reported to the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee.
5. At the first meeting, Members received an informative and detailed overview of the Surgery workstream and the following key issues were highlighted:-
  - Urology
  - Bariatric Surgery
  - Orthopaedics
  - Endoscopy
  - Vascular Surgery
  - Plastic Surgery
  - Ophthalmology
  - Clinical decision Unit
  - Pathology
  - Radiology
6. During the meeting a discussion ensued about the three main challenges the Trust were facing in respect of this workstream and were highlighted as
  - Unscheduled care;

- Mainstreaming services and providing access to consultants 24hours, 7days a week; and
  - Delivering local services of a high standards and trying to compete with external providers to retain services locally
7. Given the enormity of this workstream Members agreed to give some thought as to how best to approach this piece of work and a further meeting was arranged.
  8. Members agreed that there are a number of issues that the wider Committee need to be kept update about, namely the Clinical Decision Unit, Radiology and Vascular Surgery.
  9. Members agreed to focus one specific area of interest, that being bariatric surgery and given the recent press focus it appears to be a timely piece of work.
  10. Members would like to meet with the Associate Chief Operating Officer in sixth months' time to receive an update all the issues discussed at the first meeting.

### **Conclusions to date**

11. Members welcomed the opportunity to meet with the Associate Chief Operating Officer and receive an overview of the Surgery workstream.
12. Members acknowledge that there is vast amount of work going on with the Trust and it would not be possible to thoroughly scrutinise everything and therefore it has been agreed to focus on only one element.
13. Members believe that a piece of work focusing on Obesity should be undertaken looking at the whole pathway and multi-agency approach. Members are aware that obesity often results in bariatric surgery and intend to scrutinise the pathway of care received and the necessary aftercare. We recognise that this could be a huge piece of work and therefore would wish to include all Members of this Committee.
14. Members understand the financial difficulty that NHS organisations are facing and believe streamlining services will drive efficiencies and create savings.
15. From the work the Group have undertaken, we are satisfied that the Trust are challenging the planned and emergency surgery pathways to reduce time spent in hospital and the number of aftercare visits required. We would like to hold a further meeting to discuss the progress being made to complete this piece of work.

## **Recommendations**

16. That a Quad of Aims be drafted outlining Members intention of scoping a piece of work around Obesity.
17. That a meeting be arranged in April 2013 to enable Members to receive an update from the Associate Chief Operating Officer regarding the surgery workstream.
18. That the Surgery Task and Finish Review Group be dissolved as the work is completed.

## **Surgery Task and Finish Review Group**

