
HEALTH AND WELL BEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2008/09

Introduction

1. After another extremely busy year, I am delighted to present the Annual Report of Health and Well Being Scrutiny Committee to Council on behalf of Members of that Committee. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Members for their contribution to the work of this Committee, with particular thanks to those Members who participated in Scrutiny Reviews. Their support to the scrutiny process is invaluable and the work of the Committee would not have been as effective without their support and commitment over the last year.
2. I wish to acknowledge the effort and the help of the Officers in particular Miriam Davidson, Locality Director of Public Health, and Jane Robinson Assistant Director, Adult Services who have assisted the Scrutiny Committee a great deal while also continuing with their demanding 'day jobs' and also Abbie Anderson, Democratic Support Officer. Special thanks are extended to the following Cabinet Members for their continued support - Councillors Veronica Copeland, Adult Services portfolio and Andy Scott Health and Leisure portfolio.
3. I would also like to thank link Officers the NHS Trusts for their support and flexibility over the last year. Officers from the Trust are also approaching the Committee with items for consideration, demonstrating the high regard which the Trust hold in Committee in and the excellent relationship that Members have forged with the Trusts.
4. Over the year, as seen in the appended work programme (**Appendix 1**), the Committee has handled all the elements of scrutiny, including policy development, progress, consultation and monitoring functions and studies of particular services. We have gained in experience, knowledge and confidence using various techniques as appropriate.
5. As a Committee we continue to look at ways in which we can, through the Scrutiny process, contribute to the work of the Council and enable all our Members to analyse, contribute and comment on ways of developing the scrutiny process further.
6. In addition, the Committee has undertaken reviews and contributed to a number of consultations. The Scrutiny Committee has also taken its meetings out into the Community of Darlington. Venues include amongst others Arts Centre, Dolphin Centre, Stressholme Golf Club, Dr Piper House, Millennium Centre and Central House.
7. With the assistance of Officers the Committee's focus has remained the three key messages from the Annual Report of the Director for Public Health, into our Work Programme, which explains the reasons for the differences in health between Darlington residents and the rest of England, which are complex. They can be summarised as:- Inequalities in opportunity – poverty, family, education, employment and environment (the wider determinants of

health), Inequalities in lifestyle choices – smoking, physical activity, food, drugs, alcohol and sexual activity; and Inequalities in access to service for those who are already ill or have accrued risk factors for disease. Members considered the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2007/08 Narrowing the gap in Coronary Heart Disease and Cancers, County Durham and Darlington in detail and look forward to reviewing its progress when this years annual report is published.

8. Next year, the Committee will link their Work Programme to the workstreams of the Healthy Darlington Theme Group under the Sustainable Community Strategy: One Darlington: Perfectly Placed and scrutinises the indicators of the Local Area Agreement which falls within the Committees remit.

Improving working relationships

9. This year has seen the Committee continue to build on relationships with a variety of NHS Trusts, including establishing new relationships with the commissioners from NHS County Durham. Lead Members continue to hold regular briefings with Lead Directors of County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, NHS Darlington and Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust to discuss up and coming issues which affect residents of Darlington. These briefings have proved successful for both Members are the Trusts and as it an opportunity for a variety of issues to be discussed.
10. Members' relationship with the Mental Health Trust has improved and this was demonstrated when lead Members were confidentially briefed by Officers about proposed changes to rehabilitation services on Holly Ward before it 'hit the headlines'. The Committee received an update report formally at a Committee meeting where it was explained that due to the change of patient behaviour patterns the need for rehabilitation services and continuing care services was changing and the rehabilitation services provided in Holly Ward was no longer sustainable for the Trust. The Trust has other facilities which will provide rehabilitation services for patients across the patch, including Darlington. Holly Ward was officially closed on 10th December 2008. Members have recently received an invite to an open event of the new Holly Unit and the premises will now be used for pilot drug and alcohol deetox programmes. We will continue to be kept informed about the number of patient flows.
11. Following the establishment of the Local Improvement Networks (LINKs), Members have met with the LINK Team Leader on a regular basis to discuss recruiting of members and publicising the work of the LINK. Members will continue to be involved with the LINK and are drawing up a protocol between the Scrutiny Committee. The protocol will outline the reporting mechanisms and avoid duplication of work, with the potential to share some of the Committee's workload. The LINK is able to make recommendations to the Scrutiny Committee which may assist Reviews that the Scrutiny Committee is undertaking.
12. Colin Morris, Chief Executive of Darlington NHS has briefed Members on the structural changes that have taken place within Darlington NHS. He explained that there are two specific challenges facing the PCT; World Class Commissioning and the associated accreditation, and the developments around PCT provider functions. There has been on going work in County Durham and Darlington to create the visible split in responsibility between the commissioner and provider function, of the two PCT's. As such the PCT's have separated budgets, transferred staff and introduced Service Level Agreements for

provision of services across both PCT's. Members have very much welcomed the changes and are pleased that Darlington PCT (now known as NHS Darlington) has created its own Board and Executive Directors solely with a Darlington focus.

13. Representatives from Black Minority Ethnic (BME) Community Development Service, Mental Health Matters, attended a meeting of this Committee to discuss the Delivering Race Equality Local Charter and requested the Committees endorsement. The BME Community Development Services has been commissioned by County Durham and Darlington Primary Care Trusts to work towards the Government's agenda - Delivering Race Equality. The Local Charter will be for services to sign up to work towards the actions of Delivering Race Equality. There will also be a guidance tool to support the services to implement actions of Delivering Race Equality. The guidance tool will include useful suggestions and examples of good practice explaining how services can adhere to the Charter. We had pleasure in endorsing the Charter and are looking forward to seeing it on display. Now a relationship has been established there is potential for other charters to be considered by the Committee for endorsement.

Seizing the Future

14. As reported briefly last year, the Committee has been heavily involved with "Seizing the Future" this year. This has been predominant item on the Committees Work programme over the past year and has resulted in a Task and Finish Group and a number of Special meetings and briefings being held.
15. The County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust initiative of seizing the future is a programme of change aimed at developing the Trusts' Strategic Direction for the next five years and was supported by a major clinical service review. The review included an examination of current services, an assessment of how these services adhere to best practice in clinical outcomes, a review of achievement of national standards across all services and the development of future service options.
16. Members of this Scrutiny Committee attended a work shop hosted by the Trust with Members from Durham County Council's Scrutiny Committee. The workshop provided Members with an overview of the seizing the future review and discussed feedback from the recent clinical summit, which has lead to options being explored. Members were informed of the Trust's intention to go out to consultation in September 2008.
17. Lead Members of the Scrutiny Committee continued to meet with the Chief Executive of the Trust who briefed them as to how seizing the future is progressing. Members were clear on the Trust's aim of the seizing the future review, ensuring the best services for patients while maximising the use of all of the hospital sites and outlined the national, regional and local challenges behind the case for change.
18. Members were made aware of the three options that will be consulted upon and received a confidential copy of the draft consultation document and were asked for their comments. A Task and Finish Group was established to feed back Members comments to the Trust. It was explained how the review is being driven by quality of care and patient safety and highlighted the assessment made by Sir George Alberti during a recent visit and his conclusion that "no change is not an option."

19. Following the Task and Finish Group meeting with representatives from the Trust, Members comments were welcomed from the Trust. The Trust acknowledged that further clarity was needed to demonstrate that the consultation and proposed changes are for the patients' benefits and that patient safety is the key driver. Members advice was sought on how best to engage with the general public of Darlington and suggestions were taken on board.
20. Consultation on seizing the future was launched, and the Committee held two special meetings of the Committee and invited all Members of Council to attend. The Chief Executive of the Trust addressed both meetings and sought Members' feedback to the consultation. The Committee agreed to support the Trusts proposals and unanimously Option B. Members have particularly been impressed with the communications that the Trust has had with the Committee and have welcomed all their involvement and co-operation; particularly around the preparation for formal consultation when the Trust openly approached Members for feedback as to how the consultation could be shaped for Darlington residents. The Committee formally responded to the consultation and have included positive messages about how the consultation has been handled and that Members have welcomed every opportunity to input into the process.
21. A report outlining the seizing the future proposals was also considered by full Council in November 2008 and Council agreed to support unanimously Option B.
22. Lead Members of the Committee have continued to be briefed by the Chief Executive of Trust throughout the consultation, keeping to update of the responses received and the momentum of the 'Save of Hospital' campaign at Bishop Auckland General Hospital.
23. The Committee received initial findings from the completion of the seizing the future consultation process which ended on 12th January, 2009. Members are pleased to note that as part of the consultation process, 160,000 consultation leaflets were delivered house-to-house and 17 public meetings had been held which accumulated 209 attendees, a bespoke website had gained 2,300 visits to the site which had generated 235 responses, and 940 postal responses had been received with 235 online responses.
24. Following analysis of the figures, the proportionate response from Darlington was 64 per cent response for the case for change; 27 per cent disagree and 9 per cent undecided. 54 per cent of the responses to the consultation were in agreement with the process and 82 per cent are in support of one of the options. Members were delighted with the number of responses from Darlington residents.
25. At a recent meeting in March 2009, we received a copy of the Final Report that was presented to the Foundation Trust Board and County Durham NHS Trust Board, which took into account all the representations received and the 15k signature petition which had been presented to Downing Street on 5th January, on behalf of the Save Our Hospital Campaign, against the seizing the future proposals.
26. Both Trust Boards supported the case for change and the proposals put forward by in the seizing the future consultation. Under these proposals (Option B) the acute hospital services will be concentrated at Darlington Memorial Hospital and University Hospital of North Durham. Bishop Auckland General Hospital will be redeveloped as a centre for planned care and rehabilitation and recovery. Outpatients Services and diagnostic tests will continue

at all three sites.

27. Members will continue to be involved in the implementation stage of the proposals and continue to meet with the Chief Executive from the Trust and Officers and offer assistance, raise awareness of changes to services, as necessary.

NHS Consultations

28. The Primary Care Trusts Darlington and County Durham have been involved in the local consultation to improve access to GP services. Members were formally consulted as part of the process in accordance with the statutory duty under Section 244 of the NHS Act 2006. Following the outcome of Darzi Interim Report, every PCT nationally was tasked with developing a new health centre service. The service would be in addition to existing provision and would provide patients with more flexible access to GP's and other services in line with identified needs locally. The proposals for Darlington have been formulated based upon national operational guidelines and local health needs assessment. The consultation consulted on three issues: - the location of service, views about the services to be delivered and the criteria that people think should be used for assessing potential providers. The Committee supported the proposals for the addition of services to the Walk In Centre at Dr Piper House operating from 8am -8pm, in principle, as it will increase the services available in the town, that are needed. Members will be kept informed and continue to monitor its progress.
29. The lead Members of this Scrutiny Committee received a briefing on the draft NHS Constitution, which provided a perspective on the purpose and merits of the NHS Constitution. All Members of Council received a summary of the NHS Constitution Consultation document and the Committee established a Task and Finish Group to formally respond to the consultation and an invite was circulated to all Members of Council to attend the meeting. Members met with David Gallagher, Director of Corporate Strategies, Services and Relations, NHS County Durham who guided Members through the document. Members were in agreement that the Constitution is a worthwhile document and have acknowledged that having all NHS values and principles in one combined Constitution laid down a positive message. Although, Members did suggest that the general public may already think that such a document was already in existence. In Members opinion, the document clearly outlines what patients can expect and what is expected from patients. We welcomed the summary document and thought that the general public would be likely to read it, although, only when they have a problem or complaint. A formal response to the consultation was submitted to the Secretary of State on behalf of the Committee.
30. Darlington PCT presented the first Darlington Prospectus to the Committee at the Special meeting in July 2008. Darlington's PCT Prospectus details the future direction for local health services and summarises local commissioning priorities as developed through the Annual Operational Plan. A number of stakeholders were involved in the production of the prospectus, including this Scrutiny Committee and the prospectus has been distributed to all those involved. Members welcomed the prospectus as a way of highlighting and promoting the PCT services.
31. Members of the Committee were consulted upon the Annual Operational Plan 2009/10 and received an update on the progress of the Annual Operational Plan for 2008/09 for both NHS County Durham and NHS Darlington. The development of the Annual Operational

Plan (AOP) is part of the Primary Care Trusts five year strategic planning framework and NHS County Durham are leading on the process on behalf of NHS Darlington. NHS County Durham is currently assessing progress against last years Annual Delivery Plan and identifying emerging priorities in line with the PCT's local five year Strategic Plan. The consultation aims to ensure that Darlington residents and other key stake holders have the opportunity to comment on and influence the development of the AOP by submitting their views on the emerging local health priorities and issues. Members of the Committee are pleased to have been consulted and have agreed with the Commissioning Intentions set out in the report.

32. We have also been consulted on the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust's Strategic Direction, which highlighted the Trusts' revised strategic objectives. The Strategic Direction, together with the Integrated Business Plan, underpinned the Trusts successful application for the Foundation Trust Status. The strategic objectives are still draft for the Trust Board to continue to work on them over the coming months and our comments were very much welcomed.
33. The North East Ambulance Service Trust has attended a meeting of this Scrutiny Committee to discuss the intention to consult upon applying to become a Foundation Trust. Members received an initial presentation highlighting the Trust vision for the North East Ambulance Service and a separate discussion paper which also reported the issues raised. Members welcomed the early communications from the Trust and we look forward to the next stages of the process.

Monitoring

34. We have received a number of reports monitoring work previously undertaken by the Committee such as the Committee's recommendations to make Darlington: A Breastfeeding Friendly Town. Members received an update from the Infant Feeding Co-Ordinator on the recommendations of the Breastfeeding Review and welcomed the positive progress of the Breast Feeding Accreditation Scheme and look forward to receiving further updates.
35. Following past work undertaken by the Committee in respect of teenage pregnancy, young parents and reducing health inequalities. Members were recently guided through a presentation on the progress Darlington's Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and Accelerated Action Plan. The Teenage Pregnancy Strategy for Darlington aims to reduce the conception rate by 55% in under 18's by 2010 and prevent social exclusion of those who choose to become parents. This has resulted in 2006 in a 13% reduction of unintended conceptions in girls under 18. We will continue to receive future updates.
36. We have received an update on Home Equipment Loan Services following the work undertaken by the Committee in 2002. Members were pleased to note the positive major changes in Home Equipment Loan Services (HELs) between 2007 – 2008 and welcomed the new management structure. Members also welcomed the Project Manager reviewing HELs and wheelchair services, in line the completion of the Department of Health study on 'Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchair Services'. Members are delighted that equipment can now be ordered on line and performance has risen in Darlington Adult Social Care from 93% of pieces of standard equipment delivered within seven days in 2006/07 to 96% in 2007/08. Members are keen to be kept informed in the progress in relation to HELs as there are further changes to be introduced that will impact on the

Services. It was reported that a Contestability Plan is being developed and will be considered a future Committee meeting. Members are also interesting in visiting HELS.

37. This year Members have considered a variety of Strategies, new initiatives and projects, which we have agreed to monitor. We will receive regular update reports with the opportunity to identify any areas that we can assist Officers with or add value to. These have included: Fair Access to Care; Sports and Physical Activity Strategy; Transformation of Social Care; Safeguarding Adults in Darlington and Integration of Health and Social Care in Darlington.
38. We also considered the Strategy for Mental Health Services for Older People and its associated Action Plan and have agreed to monitor the progress of both the Action Plan and Strategy.
39. Members were interested to learn during consideration of Carers' Strategy and Implementation Plan that after completion of this Strategy, Officers will begin drafting a Young Carers Strategy. We have offered our services in assisting with evidence gathering process.
40. We have recently agreed to monitor progress on the proposed Arts Centre development. Members are aware that the project is in very early stages and no funding has been secured. Members will await a decision as to whether the proposal will go ahead, due to the current financial climate, before any further scrutiny is undertaken.
41. Members were briefed in January 2009, on the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust Winter Plan 2008/09. The Trust are coping extremely well, given that December 2008, was one of the coldest winters for almost 30 years and the Trust hospitals were under a great amount of pressure. We will receive an analysis of just how well the winter plan was for 2008/09 early in the new municipal year and continue to receive updates as the Trust plans for winter 2009/10.
42. As part of our role we have continued to monitor the Service Plans under the control of Health and Well Being Scrutiny Committee, those being: - Adult Social Services, Leisure and Arts, Supporting People and Public Protection. Members received a summary of performance at the end of third quarter during the Municipal Year 2008/09. It is the intention of this Scrutiny Committee to set up Task and Finish Groups, as appropriate and necessary, in order to scrutinise performance in identified services and/or for individual performance indicators.

Themed meetings

43. This year due to the immense work load of the Committee we have held a number of special meetings. Some of these meetings have been themed to enable Members to be fully informed, gain an understanding and undertake detailed scrutiny of a particular service area.
44. The first themed meeting of the Committee was held in September 2008. The theme was mental health and learning disability services, and we were welcomed to Clifton Road Community Centre by staff and volunteers who provided us with refreshments and lunch. The meeting considered a number of issues under mental health and learning disabilities

umbrella, including the Autism Strategy, NHS Campus Closures, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards, Amendments to the Mental Health Act 1983 and Valuing People Now. This meeting was very successful for both Members and Officers alike and a further meeting will be held next year to enable Members to be updated on the progress of issues discussed.

45. In November 2008, we held a Stroke Services themed meeting where we received a presentation from Anthony Prudhoe, Assistant Director Joint Commissioning, NHS County Durham, on Stroke Care and recent developments, which included a summary of the stroke care review and highlighted raising awareness, TIA and minor stroke, life after stroke and leadership and skills as the key areas of stroke care. We also received a presentation from Peter Moore, Regional Manager of the Stroke Association, who updated us on the progress of the publicity campaigns, following the Committees work in producing a stroke card last year. We are pleased that lots of work has been undertaken within the last year around stroke care services, and acknowledge that there was still a lot to do.
46. We also have held a special meeting at Rosemary Court, in January 2009, where we received a presentation on the Assistive Technology Project 2008/09. We were informed about Telecare and how it works, including information on lifeline units, bed sensors, pill sensors and fall detectors all linked into the CCTV Control Room and Telehealth and the equipment used by patients to monitor themselves. We then visited the Demo Room at Rosemary Court, to view the Assistive Technology equipment. We intend to visit CCTV Control once the new Jontek software is installed. We look forward to receiving future updates in respect of assistive technology being rolled out into other extra care facilities.
47. Most recently, we have held a themed meeting around 'Transport to Health' and invited all four Trusts, Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council to share information about the services they provide. We had representatives from GOLD, Age Concern and DAD at the meeting expressing their concerns and issues around access to medical appointments. We will now consider with the assistance of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee whether any further scrutiny is required within this area.

Assessment for Improvement – The Annual Health Check

48. As part of performance management arrangements across the NHS, the Committee has again engaged in the self-assessment process for each local NHS Trust and has provided a 'reality check' on Trust performance across 24 core standards.
49. Again, the Committee has split into four separate groups and agreed some common standards in relation to clinical and cost effectiveness, governance, care environment and amenities, and public health to inform our contribution to each Trusts final declaration of compliance for 2008/09.
50. Many successful meetings have been held, together with very useful visits to the North East Ambulance Trust HQ, Bernicia House, West Park Hospital, Darlington Memorial Hospital, Hospital Records Office and Dr Piper House.
51. Members have established firm relationships with the Governance Officers within each NHS Trust and worked well together. Officers from all four Trusts have welcomed our input into the process and look forward to working with us in the new municipal year.

Other Reviews

52. We are nearing the completion of our major review of monitoring the Action Plan of the Older People Strategy. This review has been very in depth and all Members of the Committee have had the opportunity to attend the meetings of the Review Group. The review is following the Committees assistance in drafting the Strategy and Cabinets recommendation that the Committee monitor the implementation of the Action Plan.
53. Following a number of consultation exercises at GOLD Tea Dance, GOLD Positive Health Day and the launch of the Older Peoples Strategy, we consulted with members of the public about the experiences of retirement and what they thought was important when preparing for retirement. We agreed to monitor the health and well being strand of the Action Plan and within this strand we chose four actions to scrutinise in detail.
54. Our work will conclude with us hosting a talking together style event, held at the Dolphin Centre, to promote healthy ageing programmes across Darlington. The event is for all third sector, PCT and Council services to promote activities for older people, to share information, to address duplication and to ask the general public about the retirement services they would like.
55. I would once again like to thank to support received from the Officers with this particular Review and also B&Q, who sent a representative to some of our meetings and allowed us to visit their store and meet some of their staff.
56. At the Committee's August meeting, we considered the Adult Social Care Compliments, Comments, Suggestions and Complaints Procedure and Annual Report 2007/2008. As a result of the report, Members raised concerns in respect of the number of complaints received within the Independent Home Care Services area and whether it was a particular provider who was receiving complaints and how they were dealt with.
57. A Task and Finish Review Group was established at that meeting, to look at this issue in more detail. The Review concluded that Members are extremely satisfied with the scrutiny investigation and that the complaints are being handled in accordance to procedure and sufficient monitoring is place. It was also suggested that the compliments received by the Independent Care Homes providers be included in the statistics reported to Adults Services. Members of the Group would like to thank Officers for their clarity and assistance.

Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee

58. I have attended all the meetings of the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee this year and there has been a number of many meetings, particularly concerning the change of location of the Contact Centre for the North East Ambulance Services (NEAS) Trust. The Tees Valley Authorities have been against the proposals while Darlington were supportive having seen for themselves the control room in action. However, Darlington did support the Joint Committees Decision to refer the matter to the Secretary of State following a number of concerns over the conduct of a Non Executive Director and parts of consultation process. The Independent Reconfiguration Panel and the Secretary of State sided in favour of NEAS and dismissed the Joint Committees referral.

59. The Joint Committee have established a Sub-Committee to consider Momentum: Pathways to Healthcare Statutory Consultation, which involves proposals to build a new hospital serving Hartlepool, Stockton, Easington and Sedgefield. Darlington has opted out of the Sub-Committee but will be kept informed of the process, as phase 2 begins.
60. The Joint Committee have also considered Cancer Screening Services; Emergency Care Assistants; NEAS Foundation Trust Status application; Community Based Arrhythmia Services and NHS advertising. It's been another busy year!

Looking Ahead...

61. We will continue to have high regard to the health inequalities identified in our Work Programme in respect of opportunities, choice and access to improve equalities for Darlington residents.
62. We anticipate more changes in world of health and look forward to Commissioning arrangements being completed and watch with interest the impact of Practice Based Commissioning. We will continue to look at ways in which scrutiny can contribute to the vision for Darlington through working with the Healthy Darlington Themed Group.
63. We will take part in a Regional Scrutiny pilot to respond to the North East Ambulance Services Trust's consultation with regards to its application to become a Foundation Trust and consider lessons learned. We will explore the possibility of more Regional and Sub-Regional Scrutiny through the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee and Durham County Council.
64. In the new Municipal Year, the Committee will continue to be busier than ever, as we will keep a 'watching brief' on the implementation of the future proposals, consider the business case for improvements to infrastructure of Darlington Memorial Hospital and be involved in the improvements to Access to Primary Care.

Councillor Mrs. Marian Swift
on behalf of Health and Well Being Scrutiny Committee