

ADULTS AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

3rd June, 2014

PRESENT – Councillor Thistlethwaite (in the Chair); Councillors Harman, Hutchinson, Kelley, S. Richmond and York (6)

APOLOGIES – Councillors B. Jones, D Jones, Knowles, Lister and J. Lyonette (5)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Seth Pearson Director of the Darlington Partnership.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor Culley.

AH1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

AH2. TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS - RESOLVED – That meetings of this Scrutiny Committee be held at 9.30 a.m. for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2014/15.

AH3. MINUTES – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 22nd April, 2014.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

AH4. COMMUNITY BASED ADVICE AND SUPPORT – DARLINGTON HELP HUB
– The Assistant Director, Chief Executive's submitted a report updating Members on the ongoing work of the Community Based Advice and Support Group.

The Director of the Darlington Partnership reported to Members that the aim of the Darlington Help Hub was to provide community based advice and support to those facing crisis due to poverty. Members were informed that within the new Contact Centre at the Town Hall, the Darlington Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and the Credit Union both now offered services. It was reported that this provision had now been developed further as a community outreach and had been successfully implemented in St Mary's Church, Cockerton and King's Church on Whessoe Road.

Discussion ensued on the Help Hub being available to people from all areas of the town; the different needs of the service users in the two community hubs; the need to now focus on the promotion and advertising of the services; the use of a single point of contact in order to get the support needed; the future development of the scheme in other Wards within the town and its future funding.

RESOLVED – That the report be received and that information be included in Councillors' newsletters where appropriate.

AH5. WORK PROGRAMME – The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny

Committee during the current Municipal Year.

The submitted report outlined those areas where this Scrutiny Committee had previously identified it would like to focus its work and also emphasised that the work programme was a rolling programme and any Member of this Scrutiny could request an item to be included provided that a Quad of Aims had been submitted to the Scrutiny Committee to ensure that it contributed to the strategic aims of the Council.

It was reported that the Task and Finish Review on Medication in Care Homes was on-going and that an update report would be submitted to the next ordinary meeting of this Scrutiny Committee scheduled for 26th August, 2014.

Members also requested that an update report on Telehealth Care and the results from the revised draft new Housing development policy consultation be submitted to a future meeting of this Scrutiny Committee. Reference was also made to the possibility of this Scrutiny Committee receiving a quarterly report from Housing specifically in relation to voids and future housing proposals.

RESOLVED – That the current status of the Work Programme be noted.