

HEALTH AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5 November 2014

PRESENT – Councillor Newall (in the Chair); Councillors Crichlow, Donoghue, Macnab, Nutt, Regan, EA Richmond, S Richmond, H Scott and J Taylor. (11)

APOLOGIES – Councillor H Scott, Miriam Davidson, Director Public Health and K Ross, Public Health Principal.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – (0)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Catherine Whitehead, Assistant Chief Executive, Sharon Raine, Head of Organisational Planning, Seth Pearson, Darlington Partnership Director and Karen Graves, Democratic Officer.

EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES – Jackie Kay, Assistant Chief Officer, Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Edmund Lovell, Associate Director of Marketing and Communications, County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust (CDDFT), Sarah Callaghan, Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust and Diane Lax, Healthwatch Darlington.

HP26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

HP27. MINUTES – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of meetings of this Scrutiny Committee held on 2 and 15 September 2014.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved as correct records.

HP28. MATTERS ARISING – There were no matters arising.

HP29. WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15 – 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. In addition to the previously approved Work Programme, Members were requested to consider and approve Appendix 1 to the submitted report, which detailed that status of each item.

It was 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 prior to ensure that it contributed to the strategic aims of the Council.

The submitted report outlined the original Work Programme and requested Members to consider the areas of work already listed and if appropriate include any further issues.

There was a discussion on the current status of various topics on the work programme.

Members were keen to pursue Telehealth Care which is to be considered by Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny early next year as part of the Digital Care Programme. Committee were advised that the Better Care Fund had included opportunities around Digital Care and that the CCG would be working with the Foundation Trust and partners to progress this.

In relation to access to GP appointments Scrutiny were advised that three projects began in October as part of the Prime Minister's Challenge Fund. These projects will be evaluated in May/June 2015 to see how access is affected. Members agreed that people generally wanted an appointment with their own GP however if this was not possible an appointment with an alternative GP would be offered. Members highlighted that pharmacists could always help with non-urgent issues and the CCG confirmed that winter plans did stress that a patient could seek advice from a pharmacist. Healthwatch Darlington advised Scrutiny that its new Healthwatch Directory also listed the pharmacies with contact details at the beginning of the Directory.

Urgent Care Integration from Dr Piper House to Darlington Memorial Hospital continues and Darlington CCG advised Scrutiny that 'go live' date of September 2015 had been requested at a recent project meeting. Members will continue to monitor progress.

The Chair reported that Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny was to consider the North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) at its next meeting following. Once the outcomes of that meeting are known a special meeting of this Scrutiny will be held to give consideration to the effect of winter planning and preparedness on NEAS.

The Chair requested that Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee invite Members of this Scrutiny when it considers the Dementia Strategy.

Particular reference was made to the implications of the temporary move of the Breast Clinic to Bishop Auckland from Darlington Memorial Hospital. The Trust advised that a meeting had been held with Healthwatch and the work of Healthwatch would be used to support Focus Groups in Durham and Darlington which were to meet prior to Christmas. It was stated that clinicians believed that the number of sites should be reduced from four to two, that there were issues around the kit which needed updating and there was pressure to reach a solution. It was confirmed that formal consultation would be undertaken if there was a move to close the Darlington Breast Clinic.

A formal consultation of clinical staff was also being undertaken and concerns were expressed from support staff of the service that people wanted to wait before being seen. It was also stated that there was too much capacity at four sites and that two week waits could be achieved.

Concerns were expressed that people from Darlington were choosing to attend at North Tees or Hartlepool and clarification was sought on where people attended follow-up appointments.

Members also requested that the impact of hearing loss and the future arrangements for Centres of Excellence be added to the Work Programme.

Healthwatch stated that people needed to realise that Care Closer to Home did not mean treatment would be at a local hospital, it was the aftercare which was close to home.

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

(b) That the Work Programme be updated to reflect the decisions of this Scrutiny Committee.

HP30. HEALTH AND WELL BEING BOARD – Councillor Newall informed Scrutiny that the Board's Work Programme items were reflected in its agendas, that it was useful to have Members of Scrutiny on the Board, that the process was more focussed and there was an excellent cross section of representation.

Particular reference was made to the national Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat which was launched a few months ago and the approach to be adopted for developing and agreeing a local declaration and joint action plan in response to the Concordat.

Details were supplied of the key aims of the Concordat one of which was to develop joined up service responses to people who are suffering from mental health crisis with emphasis on securing delivery of improved outcomes for people in mental health crisis at a local level.

TEWV advised that the concordat was multi-agency, people's needs had to be taken into consideration and that there was to be quarterly updates against national priorities which would be reported to this Scrutiny.

Reference was also made to the bi-annual Clinical and Care Quality report especially in relation to the shortage of radiologists which had resulted in the temporary closure of breast cancer screening at Darlington Memorial Hospital.

Members raised concerns relating to lack of beds during a recent re-fit of the orthopaedic ward at Darlington Memorial Hospital but were reassured by the Trust's response.

RESOLVED – (a) That the update be noted.

(b) That quarterly updates in relation to the Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat against national priorities be submitted to future meetings of this Scrutiny Committee.

HP31. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT - Pursuant to Minute HP61/Apr/14, the Head of Organisational Planning gave a further presentation on the Performance Management Framework.

It was stated that the Framework included statistical data around the key performance indicators that were relevant to this Scrutiny Committee and which would be used to demonstrate and measure how those indicators were performing and contributing to the eight key objectives and overall vision of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS).

It was highlighted that work has been undertaken on the high level indicators which have been devised as a set of key indicators to measure performance. The high level indicators were strategic indicators which included all the Partners and would be used to assess the outcomes of the Strategy. The delivery indicators set out what the Council is doing to ensure the strategic indicators are achieved.

It was reported that the eight strategic outcomes had been assigned by the Monitoring and Co-ordination Group to the relevant Scrutiny Committee and that this Scrutiny Committee had been assigned to the strategic outcomes – More People Healthy and Independent and More People Active and Involved.

Particular reference was made to the Community Survey which is a postal survey undertaken every two years. Although no longer a national Government policy the survey was still undertaken by Darlington Borough Council and gave an excellent statistical overview.

It was highlighted that the information would inform the budget process and that areas where there were issues could be investigated in more detail. It was confirmed that data would need to be re-aligned once the boundary changes were made and that changes would be highlighted in any affected wards.

RESOLVED – That the Head of Organisational Planning be thanked for her informative presentation.

HP32. DARLINGTON PARTNERSHIP – The Director of Neighbourhood and Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) on the progress of Darlington Partnership since December 2013 and introduced the revised One Darlington Perfectly Placed Strategy.

A short DVD, available to watch on You Tube, setting out some of the key objectives of the One Darlington Perfectly Placed document was also shown.

Members were keen to publicise the DVD through social media and Councillors Newsletters. It was also stated that a series of videos had been made focussing on different aspects of One Darlington Perfectly Placed for the Council's employees as 60 per cent of them lived in Darlington.

The Darlington Partnership Director, Seth Pearson referred to Minute ER12/Sep/14 of Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee which had requested that this Scrutiny Committee scrutinise the role of the Darlington Partnership, its Governance arrangements and performance. He reported that in order to better demonstrate fulfilment of responsibilities, the Council's Cabinet adopted a partnership toolkit in March 2007 (Min C174/March/07 refers). The toolkit content is refreshed annually to ensure that it remains relevant and it provides a means to record that the performance

of each partnership is monitored and that adequate governance arrangements are in place. Darlington Partnership has consistently met the requirements of this award-winning process.

The Partnership works to a Constitution agreed in 2008. The Chair and Vice Chair are currently up for re-election which will be agreed at the next meeting of the Partnership Board. There is a small budget for the Partnership which was held by Darlington Borough Council and covers the cost of the Director, office costs and running Assemblies and various meetings. Public sector organisations involved with the partnership make annual contributions towards these costs. The Partnership has no resources of its own and relies on the people and organisations involved with it to take the actions needed to achieve goals agreed in Partnership. It has no decision making powers over any resources of member organisations.

The Darlington Partnership Director, Seth Pearson introduced the report and provided details on One Darlington Perfectly Placed, Action Priorities, Foundation for Jobs, Good Friends, Darlington Cares, Help Hubs and Mental Wellbeing in the Workplace.

The Partnership's two purposes are to agree what the major issues and opportunities are for Darlington and to ensure action is being taken to address them. It was reported that the Darlington Partnership activity was focused on achieving the three key conditions of A Growing Economy, Strong Resilient Communities and Every Public Pound Being Spent Wisely. In September 2011 the Partnership Board agreed to focus on a limited number of Action Priorities in order to instigate action which visibly addressed issues facing Darlington and those Action Priorities were a key mechanism the Partnership used to achieve the three key conditions.

Foundation for Jobs began in April 2012 and was the Partnership's response to youth unemployment through directly increasing vocational opportunities through the creation of apprenticeships. The Partnership always met its targets for securing apprenticeship places with a total of 287 apprenticeships being secured so far. It was also reported that Foundation for Jobs had won a National Award.

Good Friends was established in 2013 with Durham Constabulary, Neighbourhood Watch and Age UK Darlington, to provide a borough wide good neighbour scheme to respond to the needs of the elderly and vulnerable people outside of core service provision, providing support and friendship and assisting them with a range of issues which if left unaddressed could compromise their ability to live safely and well independently.

The aim of Good Friends was to recruit 1,000 Good Friends within the year and Members were pleased to hear that within the first nine months 650 volunteers had been recruited.

Details were supplied of the Darlington Cares initiative, established in 2012, a partnership of local employers, committed to making Darlington a better place through a coordinated approach to corporate social responsibility. The project works by centrally coordinating the skills, expertise and volunteering resources of member employers and their employees and matches these to local projects where they can make a positive impact.

Teesside University hosts the initiative and focuses on older people, children, community and environment. Membership has steadily grown from five to 23 employers, is now self-sustaining and adds skill value to Darlington.

Reference was made to Help Hubs established to help poverty in the Borough by providing access to a food bank, advice around debt, benefit and housing, access to the Credit Union and Council Customer Services. There are currently three hubs based at King Centre, St Andrews and Cockerton with a further two proposed.

Mental Wellbeing in the Workplace has been identified as an Action Priority for 2014 and through Darlington Cares, employers have come together to develop an initiative to help local businesses support mental wellbeing in the workplace. Partners include Darlington Mind, Darlington Partnership and the Council and this new approach will enable employers to share skills and expertise to help employers in Darlington to begin to address this important issue. It was reported that as smaller organisations do not have relevant expertise larger companies are 'buddying up' with them and sharing their knowledge.

The Partnership Director reported that an Assembly focussing on the Every Child Gets the Best Start in Life had attracted 170 delegates and proposed actions to be taken forward through the Darlington Children and Young People's Collective. A further Assembly is to be held 28 November titled 'Prosperity for All' with national level speakers being secured.

RESOLVED – (a) That the thanks of this Scrutiny Committee be extended to the Darlington Partnership Director.

(b) That the work of the Partnership be noted and commended.