
SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – ANNUAL REPORT
2003/04

It is a pleasure to present this annual report to Council on behalf of the Social Affairs and Health Scrutiny Committee, after what has been a very busy and challenging Municipal Year.

I would firstly like to take this opportunity to thank the Members of the Committee for their dedication and active involvement in the increasing workload that we have undertaken throughout the year (**Appendix 1**), and on behalf of the Committee would also like to thank our Lead Officer, Derek Stow and Caroline Thomas in Democratic Services for the support they have given to the scrutiny process this year.

Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

Following the introduction of the new health scrutiny powers and the establishment of the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee, came the launch of the Tees Review of Acute Services – a wide ranging review with implications for acute service provision across the whole Tees Valley, and Councillors Mrs. Scott and Mrs. Hart and myself have attended a number of meetings, presentations and workshops dedicated to this issue, in representing the interests of Darlington's community.

The Strategic Health Authority is in the process of launching the draft proposals, which will then be scrutinised during a period of formal consultation, and will be considered by this Scrutiny Committee as one of the first items of the new Municipal Year.

Partnership Working

Again, focusing on health, we have continued to work in partnership with Darlington Primary Care Trust (PCT) on a number of issues, and have begun to network and develop joint working arrangements with the rest of the NHS Trusts in the area. This year we have successfully met with the Chief Executives and some Trust Board members from Darlington PCT, the Acute Hospital, Priority Services and North East Ambulance Service NHS Trusts, and gained an insight into the issues affecting each of these services. We intend to use this information, and future discussions to inform our ongoing work programme.

Since the demise of Community Health Councils (CHC's), and the introduction of a new Patient Forum for each Trust, I have regularly attended the meetings of Darlington PCT's Patient Forum, and following a special meeting of the Committee, we have met representatives from the Acute Trust, Priority Services Trust, and Ambulance Service Forums, to develop procedures for sharing information and expertise, and have asked a couple of representatives from each Patient Forum to be co-optees on our ongoing Transport Review Group.

Two special joint meetings with Members of the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee and the Directors of Education and Social Services were held to consider the Every Child Matters Green Paper, and representatives from Darlington PCT, Darlington Police, the Strategic Health Authority, and the Community and Voluntary Sectors were all invited to feed into the Council's response to these proposals.

Consultations

The Committee has also recently been made aware of the Department of Health's Choosing Health Consultation and the proposals for the redevelopment of the Richardson Hospital and will be feeding its views into the responses being led by the PCT.

We have also been consulted on the option appraisal for the future management of the Council's housing stock, and as the Chair of this Scrutiny Committee, I joined the Option Appraisal Steering Group to regularly monitor and evaluate this process.

Call-Ins

The Committee also had two simultaneous call-ins on the Fairer Charging Policy for Home Care and other Non-Residential Social Services, and the Proposed Purchasing Intentions for Social Services, which resulted in the addition of a recommendation on the Fairer Charging Policy to ensure that staffing levels were reviewed to avoid delays in assessment.

Review Groups

We have undertaken a number of Reviews this year, which has seen the completion of the Oral Health of Children in Darlington Review, and the suggestion that this Group now concentrate on diet and obesity in children as a future review group topic.

The Transport Review poses a huge challenge in examining service users' access to health and social care services across Darlington, and this Review has been extended and will be undertaken by the whole Committee through small working groups over the coming months.

Our review on Nursing Mothers undertaken by Councillors Haszeldine, Mrs. Hart and myself has been highlighted by NEREO as an example of best practice for community involvement in the North East, and we have successfully engaged the interest and support of a number of mums from breastfeeding support groups run by both the Hospital and Sure Start, who have undertaken mystery shopping exercises across the Town to compare the policies and practices of establishments, and their attitudes towards nursing mums. The Group has also met with managers from the Dolphin Centre, Central House and Crown Street Library in suggesting improvements to existing facilities, and possible training opportunities for staff.

Councillors Copeland and G.B Walker have done some excellent work through a Task and Finish Review on the issue of Delayed Discharges from Hospital into nursing and residential care; and Councillors Flowers, Johnson and Richmond have looked at the provision of Community Pharmacies and the implications of the proposed new pharmacy contract on services in Darlington. They will continue with this piece of work once the contract is finalised in the Autumn.

We have also re-convened the Play Areas for Disabled Children Review Group with our colleagues on the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee, to look in more detail at the proposals for the refurbishment of North Lodge Park, and following a meeting with the Assistant Director of Community Services and the Environmental Services Operations Manager to discuss the consultation carried out by the Review Group and its recommendations, we will be involved in the progress of the refurbishment through representation on the Steering Group.

Visits

In looking at Learning Disability Services in Darlington, the Committee was invited to visit the Pierremont, Greenbank and Elmfield Units, hosted by the Priority Services Trust and following this, visited a wide range of Social Services facilities including; Beck House, Newton Lane, Techworx, Woodburn Nursery and the Railway Museum. It is pleasing to report a number of new initiatives and improvements to the service and the Committee will monitor these plans and the improvements made over the coming year.

The Committee also re-visited the Home Equipment Loans Service in Spennymoor following the recommendations of the Community Equipment Services Review Group, and were pleased with the progress that had been made. We will continue to monitor the implementation of these recommendations.

The Committee has also had the opportunity to see the new Sensory Impairment Centre at Vane House, and held the last Scrutiny Committee of this Municipal Year in the new Extra Care Scheme development at Dalkeith House, followed by visits to the new Grange and Hundens Park residential care homes.

Training

Members have also taken part in various training sessions of benefit to the scrutiny process, and in particular, I would like to thank the Committee for their attendance and input into the Scrutiny Training session on the Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP), which I think they will agree, although daunting at first, produced some useful and interesting feedback from which we can build, and we look forward to developing and improving our Scrutiny skills over the coming Municipal Year.

Social Affairs and Health Scrutiny Committee

APPENDIX 1

**SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME 2003/04**

DATE OF MEETING	SUBJECT	LEAD OFFICER	PUBLIC INFORMATION FOLDERS
<p>3rd June, 2003 (9.30 a.m. – Committee Room 2, Town Hall)</p>	<p>Homelessness Review and Strategy</p> <p>Best Value Review – Progress Report on Housing Services</p> <p>Health Scrutiny Developments in Darlington</p>	<p>Pauline Mitchell</p> <p>Sharon Brown</p> <p>Hannah Henderson (Strategic Health Authority)</p>	<p>Information Reports:</p> <p>Service Plans for;</p> <p>Adult Services; Children Services; Performance Development; and Finance</p> <p>Social Services Departmental Plan</p> <p>Adult Protection Committee Annual Report</p> <p>Young Persons Accommodation Terms of Reference and Action Plan</p>
<p>Special 1st July, 2003 (9.30 a.m. CR1, Town Hall)</p>	<p>County Durham and Tees Valley Strategic Health Authority Teesside Acute Services Review</p>	<p>Ken Jarrold, Chief Executive, StHA</p>	<p>Homelessness Strategy Action Plan</p> <p>Delayed Discharge Quarterly Report - Jan 04</p>
<p>Special 15th July, 2003 (9.30 a.m. CR1, Town Hall)</p>	<p>Council Scrutiny Function in relation to Health</p> <p>Regulation 33 Visits</p> <p>Climbie Audit Action Plan</p>	<p>Peter Kearsley/Linda Todd</p> <p>Angela Ratcliffe</p> <p>Alison Walton</p>	<p></p>

DATE OF MEETING	SUBJECT	LEAD OFFICER	PUBLIC INFORMATION FOLDERS
19th August, 2003 (9.30 a.m. – Committee Room 2, Town Hall)	Racial Incidents Reporting	Sharon Brown	
	Social Services Restructuring	Margaret Asquith	
	Sensory Impairment Services	Daljit Lally	
	Local Plan for Suicide Prevention	Angela Ratcliffe	
	Service Planning	Lorraine O'Donnell	
	Annual report - compliments, comments, suggestions and complaints policy	Derek Stow	
	Nursing Mothers Task & Finish Review	Caroline Foster	
	Community Equipment Services Policy Review Group – Feedback from Cabinet	Caroline Foster	
	Oral Healthcare of Children in Darlington Policy Review Group – Feedback from Cabinet	Caroline Foster	
13th October, 2003 (9.30 a.m. – Committee Room 2, Town Hall)	Accommodation Initiatives for Young People – Action Plan	Dale Thompson	
	Outcome of Housing Needs Survey and Proposed Priorities	Pauline Mitchell	
	Delivering Decent Homes	Pauline Mitchell	

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	Option Appraisal Leaving Care Services	Alison Walton	
20th November, 2003 Special joint meeting with Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee	Every Child Matters	Geoff Pennington/ Margaret Asquith	
9th December, 2003 (9.30 a.m. – Committee Room 2, Town Hall)	<p>Performance Assessment of Social Services & PCT Local Delivery Plan</p> <p>Supporting People Strategy</p> <p>Domiciliary Care Development Plan</p> <p><u>Home Care Services</u></p> <p>Integrated OT services across health and social services;</p> <p>Review of Progress on :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community Equipment Services Review; ▪ Domestic Violence Policy 	<p>Neville Simpson and Colin Morris, PCT</p> <p>Jeanette Crompton</p> <p>Daljit Lally</p> <p><u>Daljit Lally/Jane Breheny</u></p> <p>Daljit Lally</p> <p>Daljit Lally</p> <p>Lesley Blundell</p>	
3rd February, 2004 (9.30 a.m. – Committee Room 2, Town Hall)	<p>Health Scrutiny – Overview of Ambulance Service Issues</p> <p>Progress Report on Action Plan for</p>	<p>Simon Featherstone, Chief Executive, NEAS Trust</p> <p><u>Pauline Mitchell</u></p>	

DATE OF MEETING	SUBJECT	LEAD OFFICER	PUBLIC INFORMATION FOLDERS
	<p><u>Homelessness</u></p> <p><u>Local Community Pharmacy Network and Neighbourhood Prosperity</u></p> <p><u>Application for Preliminary Consent for Inclusion in the Pharmaceutical List</u></p> <p><u>Extra Care Schemes</u></p> <p><u>Quarterly update on Delayed Transfers of Care</u></p> <p>Children's Trusts</p>	<p><u>Caroline Thomas</u></p> <p><u>Caroline Thomas</u></p> <p><u>Pauline Mitchell</u></p> <p><u>Daljit Lally</u></p> <p>Alison Walton</p>	
<p>Special 18th March, 2004</p> <p>(9.30 a.m. – Committee Room 2, Town Hall)</p>	<p>Health Scrutiny – Overview of Ambulance Service Issues</p> <p>Learning Disabilities Business Plan</p>	<p>Simon Featherstone, Chief Executive, NEAS Trust</p> <p>Lynn Dougan, Social Services & Sandy Taylor, Chief Executive, Darlington Priority Services NHS Trust</p>	
<p>6th April, 2004</p> <p>(Dalkeith House, Tees Grange Avenue, Darlington)</p>	<p><u>Tees Review of Acute Services – Feedback from PCT</u></p> <p><u>NSF – Older People</u></p> <p><u>Overview of County Durham and Darlington</u></p>	<p><u>Colin Morris, Darlington PCT</u></p> <p><u>Paul Davison, Darlington PCT</u></p> <p><u>John Saxby, Chief Executive,</u></p>	

DATE OF MEETING	SUBJECT	LEAD OFFICER	PUBLIC INFORMATION FOLDERS
	<p><u>Acute Hospitals NHS Trust</u></p> <p><u>Racial Equality Code of Practice in Rented Housing</u></p> <p><u>Play Areas for Disabled Children</u></p> <p>Oral Healthcare of Children in Darlington Final Report</p> <p>Community Pharmacies Task and Finish Report</p> <p>Delayed Discharge Task and Finish Review - Update</p>	<p><u>CDADAH NHS Trust</u></p> <p><u>Chris Burke/Graham Carter</u></p> <p><u>Terry Collins</u></p> <p>Caroline Thomas</p> <p>Caroline Thomas</p> <p>Caroline Thomas</p>	
<p>Special 20th April, 2004</p> <p>(9.30 a.m. in Committee Room 1, Town Hall)</p>	<p>DOH - Choosing Health Consultation</p> <p>Patient and Public Involvement in Health – Overview of Commission</p> <p>Introductions from:-</p> <p>Darlington PCT Patient Forum</p> <p>County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust and Priority Trust Forums</p> <p>North East Ambulance</p>	<p>Lorraine O'Donnell/Nonnie Crawford</p> <p>Caroline Thomas</p>	

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	Service NHS Trust Forum		