
OVERVIEW OF HEALTH AND WELL BEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Health and Well Being Scrutiny Committee has undertaken: -
 - (a) **Darlington Primary Care Trust – Interim Strategic Framework 2007-2012 and Business Plan 2007/08** – Miriam Davidson, Locality Director of Public Health submitted the Darlington PCT’s Interim Strategic Framework 2007-2012 and Business Plan 2007/08 to a recent Committee meeting. The Committee was advised of the six key strategic objectives for 2007-2012 together with Darlington’s major public health and health improvement challenges. It was reported that the levels of obesity in Darlington are amongst the worst in England and dangerous drinking levels in Darlington were significantly higher than the national average. The Committee will continue to monitor these two specific areas and undertake further investigations, if necessary to do so.
 - (b) **Mental Health and Well Being Review Group** – Members of the Committee have received a progress report of the Mental Health and Well Being Review Group, which outlined that the implementation of the Mental Health Capacity Act 2005, which will not be fully implemented until October 2007 and as a consequence changes in services will still be occurring. The Committee have agreed that a review of services might be more appropriate once all of the implications of the Act had been recognised and fully implemented, therefore this review has been suspended until a later date.
 - (c) **Older Peoples Strategy** – Following a special meeting of the Social Affairs & Health Scrutiny Committee on 12 July 2007, the Committee considered the draft Older People’s Strategy. Members of the Committee showed a great deal of interest in the Strategy and were passionate about having an input into the strategy to benefit the older people in Darlington. Therefore the Committee has agreed to undertake a review of the Older People’s Strategy. This will assist in achieving some of the targets, in the Corporate Plan and Community Strategy, particularly in relation to Improving Health and Well Being, work is in progress to integrate health and social care for adults, all will contribute to the targets for the forth coming Corporate Performance Assessment in March 2008. A meeting of the Steering Group has taken place and work is currently being undertaken by Officers to submit a progress plan to be submitted to the Committees October meeting.
 - (d) **Annual Health Checks** – In preparation for the annual health check process, which looks at the performance of NHS Trusts across the Healthcare Commission’s 24 core standards, Members of the Committee have split into four separate groups and agreed some common standards in relation to safety, accessible and responsive care, care environment and amenities, and public health to inform our contribution to each Trusts

final declaration of compliance for 2007/08. Initial meetings of each group have taken place to agree how scrutiny of the core standards will be undertaken.

- (e) **Adult Social Services Compliments, Comments, Suggestions and Complaints Policy and Procedure and Annual Report 2006-2007** – The Committee received a report, which they will now receive annually, outlining the numbers of complaints received by the Adult Services Department over the last year. The Committee welcomed the reduction in the total number of complaints received and noted how the new legislation aims to encourage feedback from service users, which will feed into service improvements, monitoring mechanisms are in place to identify trends but no annual target is set for actual numbers of complaints.
- (f) **Climate Change** – The Committee recently considered two reports in relation to climate change and energy efficiency. The Committee are keen to undertake some work in relation to climate change and a brain storming session will take place during the a special October meeting.
- (g) **Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults** – The Committee received a report advising of the measures that have been put in place to strengthen the safeguards for vulnerable adults in Darlington, and of the proposals for further improvements. Members were keen that Darlington set a Care Standard of training and thought that Level 1 would be appropriate for staff coming into contact with vulnerable adults. The Committee's recommendation will be forwarded to the Adult Protection Panel.
- (h) **Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust Durham, Foundation Trust Application** – Harry Cronin, Director of Nursing, Psychology and Allied Health Professionals, recently consulted the Committee and the Borough Council on the Trusts application to become a foundation Trust and all Members of the Council were invited to attend. Members of the Committee welcomed the robust consultation carried out by the Trust.
- (i) **Stroke Symptoms** – Following the work of the Stroke Symptoms Task and Finish Review Group and the Committee expressing their disappointment that the Stroke Association would not support their proposals to design a stroke information card for Darlington residents. A special meeting of the Committee was held on 18th September 2007 and as a result of a lively meeting, it was envisaged that a positive working relationship could be established between all the organisations.
- (j) **Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee** – There has been four meetings of the Joint Committee since my last overview report and two out of the four meetings have been held in Darlington. The meetings have focused on Foundation Status consultation of the Tees, Esk & Wear Valley NHS Trust and South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust. It is expected that a final response to both consultations will be produced following the stringent evidence gathering undertaken by the Joint Committee. At the meeting in August, the Locality Director of Public Health for Darlington gave a presentation on the key health priorities for Darlington.
- (k) **Leisure and Cultural Services** – Councillor Vasey and myself have recently met with Steve Thompson and Mike Crawshaw and received a very enlightening briefing concerning leisure and cultural services, as a result of the Committee's new remit.

There will be a Special meeting of the Committee to be held in the Dolphin Centre on 9th October 2007 to allow all Members of the Committee to receive a presentation and overview of leisure and cultural services, in relation to the role of Health & Well Being Scrutiny.

- (1) **Work Programme 2007/2008** – We have given consideration to the Work Programme of this Committee for the Municipal Year 2007/08 and possible review topics. Work has been undertaken to stream line the Work Programme and clearly demonstrate the links to the Community Strategy and Corporate Plan. The Committee has identified the following three top priorities from the Corporate Plan: - develop a shared approach to public health, integrated health and social care for adults, improving health & well being and better quality of life for older people in the community. The Committee will focus its work on tackling health inequalities as highlighted in the Director of Public Health Annual Report (2006/07), in relation to opportunity, choice and access.

Councillor Mrs. Marian Swift
Chair of the Health and Well Being Scrutiny Committee

Since the last meeting of Council, I have attended the following meetings:-

- Briefing with Dr Glenys Jones – 7th August 2007.
- Meeting with Andrew Robinson – 20th August 2007.
- Briefing with Miriam Davidson – 6th September 2007.
- Steering Group Meeting for Older Peoples Strategy – 7th September 2007.
- Briefing with Leisure Officers and Councillor Wallis – 19th September 2007.
- Briefing with County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust and Darlington PCT – 19th September 2007.
- Tees, Esk & Wear Valley Annual Health Check Task & Finish Group – 21st September 2007.