

Health & Partnership Scrutiny Committee

29th October 2013

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE WINTER PLANNING

Report of Jackie Kay, Assistant Chief Officer, NHS Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the collaborative approach being taken by NHS North Durham CCG, NHS Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield CCG and NHS Darlington CCG, in developing a strategy which captures the actions that the three CCGs will undertake to monitor and manage the increased service pressures which occur during the 2013/14 winter period.

Background

2. The County Durham and Darlington Urgent Care Board, includes membership from the three CCGs, NHS County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust, Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust, Durham County Council, Darlington Borough Council, North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust, HealthWatch and NHS England Area Team.

The Urgent Care Board have requested that all partner organisations share their winter plans for consideration to provide assurance across the whole health and social care economy.

The strategy, attached as Appendix One, outlines:

- The Winter Planning Process including work with the Urgent Care Board and partner organisations
- The initiatives being considered in preparation for winter
- Monitoring and management arrangements

The document also captures any initiatives identified by partner organisations, where this information is known at this stage.

Darlington CCG are specifically exploring the following opportunities:

- Promoting the availability of GP appointments at the Urgent Care Centre during evenings and weekends during the period of increased winter demand.
- Relocation of the Urgent Care Service from Dr. Piper House to Darlington Memorial Hospital from 5 pm to Midnight (the service having already relocated between the hours of midnight and 8 am in December 2012)

- Reviewing GP patients at high risk of admission and comparing this to the case load of community matrons to identify if they are the same - this will help to promote joint working, avoid duplication redirect efforts of community nurses locally to frequent attenders and high risk patients.
- Rapid email/telephone advice service – specialist consultant advice for GPs to support delivery of care in the community setting and avoid hospital admission.
- Delivering a winter campaign of clear and consistent messages to the public using “Keep Calm” branding using paid for media and other communications opportunities (Commencing October 2013)

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that the Health & Partnership Scrutiny Committee:
 - Receive and consider the winter strategy

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