
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) **Leisure and Cultural Services** – Steve Thompson and Mike Crawshaw addressed a Special meeting of the Committee in the Dolphin Centre in early October. Members received an extremely interesting presentation and overview of leisure and cultural services, in relation to the role of Health & Well Being Scrutiny and as a result the Committee in the New Year will undertake some further work.
 - (b) **Getting ready for Local Involvement Networks (LINKs)** – At the Committee's last ordinary meeting Members received an update from the assistant Chief Executive on the progress the Authority was making to establish a LINK for Darlington. The Committee are keen to receive regular updates on the progress and have resolved to have a standing item on their agenda for each ordinary meeting until the establishment of a LINK in April 2008.
 - (c) **Older Peoples Strategy Review** – The Locality Director of Public Health Darlington PCT submitted a progress report to the ordinary Committee meeting updating Members on the progress made in reviewing the draft Older People's Strategy and identified the proposed contents. Members expressed an interest in working on the sub sections. As a result a Review Group meeting was held recently and it was agreed that the Committee would receive the next draft at their December meeting. In the New Year the Review Group will meet with lead officers for the different elements of the National Service Framework for Older People as highlighted in the Strategy.
 - (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. All four of the Task and Finish Groups have held the initial meetings and some groups have undertaken visits to their respective Trusts and to see for themselves whether the core standards are being met.
 - (e) **Climate Change** – The Committee have agreed to undertake two pieces of work in relation to Climate change those being the food element of Eco Footprinting and education and raising awareness of Skin Cancer. The Committee have split into two groups and both groups will meet in order to feed back to the special Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 6th December 2007.

- (f) **Stroke Symptoms** – Stroke Symptoms Task and Finish Review Group has been reformed and the Committee continues express their disappointment that the Stroke Association would not support their proposals to design a stroke information card for Darlington residents. The Task and Finish Review Group has met with Dr Fuat from Carmel Road GP Surgery and is scheduled to meet with Louise Okello from the PCT and the Darlington branch of Different Strokes to seek their views on an information card. The Group will continue its work to establish whether there is need to produce a Darlington information card and report its findings to the Committee's December meeting.
- (g) **Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee** – I recently chaired a meeting of the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee and the main agenda item of business was the North East Ambulance Service Trust proposals for Ambulance Contact Centres in the North East of England. As a result of that meeting all the Tees Valley Authorities are asking their Committees to consider the consultation document and report back to a meeting in December.
- (h) **Joint Health & Well Being and Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Committee** – I recently Chaired the joint meeting with this Scrutiny Committee and Neighbourhood Services to consider the draft Supporting People Strategy 2007 – 2010. It was agreed that both Committees would continue to monitor the Strategy at regular intervals.
- (i) **LSP Enquiry Group feedback** – A special meeting of the Committee has been arranged to receive the feedback from the recent work undertaken by Darlington Partnership, Enquiry Group 4 in relation to health. The Chair of the Group, Peter Barron, Editor of the Northern Echo will address the meeting.
- (j) **Service Planning and Performance** – The Committee monitors four Service Plans, those being Adult Social Services, Leisure and Arts Services, Supporting People and Public Protection. The Service Plans provide a useful summary of what a service is aiming to achieve and how it links into the Community Strategy and the Corporate Plan. The Committee will hold a special meeting to consider the 2nd Quarter Performance information and decide whether further work needs to be undertaken.
- (k) **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 Work Programme now incorporates the three main headlines from the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health, recently submitted to the Committee, to tackle inequalities in Darlington and reduce inequalities through opportunities, lifestyle choices and access to services.

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

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

- Briefing with Jane Robinson, Assistant Director, Adult Social Care and Health – 2nd October 2007.
- Briefing with Miriam Davidson, Locality Director of Public Health for Darlington – 3rd October 2007.
- Stroke Symptoms Task & Finish Group - Meeting with Dr Fuat, Carmel Surgery – 9th October 2007.
- Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee – 29th October 2007.
- Older People Strategy Review Group – 30th October 2007.
- Climate Change – Eco Foot Printing – 12th November 2007.
- Stroke Symptoms Task & Finish Group – Meeting with Louise Okello, Head of Planning, Partnerships and Development, Darlington PCT – 12th November 2007.
- Acting Chief Executive County Durham & Darlington Foundation Trust – 14th November 2007.
- Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee – 21st November 2007.