
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) **County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust** – At the Committee's December meeting, the new Chief Executive, Stephen Eames was introduced to the Committee. Mr Eames presented a brief power point presentation outlining the "seizing the future" review being undertaken by the Trust. Matrix Knowledge Group, are supporting the Trust in a review of services to develop a new five year plan. The review will create a joined up NHS in line with the PCT Commissioning Strategy and the national Our NHS, Our Future work undertaken by Professor Darzi. Mr Eames was keen on involving the Scrutiny Committee in the review process and advised that Matrix would be constructing a website to promote information, gather feedback and widely circulate detailed information.
 - (b) **Getting ready for Local Involvement Networks (LINKs)** – The Committee received a further update from the Assistant Chief Executive on the progress the Authority was making to establish a LINK for Darlington. The Committee was informed that four Task and Finish Groups have been established to consider the following: procuring a host organisation, Membership of a LINK, developing a communication plan and Governance arrangements. The Committee will receive a further update at the next ordinary meeting in February 2008.
 - (c) **Enforcement of Smokefree Legalisation** – Members of the Committee were pleased to receive an update from the Environmental Health Manager on the positive progress made since the introduction of the Smoking ban in July 2007. It was reported that there had been no prosecutions and on the whole the public had been quite receptive to the changes.
 - (d) **Food Enforcement Plan 2007/2008** – As part of the Committee's new remit, Members were introduced to the Food Enforcement Plan 2007/2008 for Darlington. The Plan provides details of the Council's approach to food safety enforcement including information about the range of activities, performance targets and resources. Members were particularly interested in Safer Food Better Business and the Tees Valley Food Hygiene Award.
 - (e) **Home Equipment Loan Services** – The Committee has received an update on Home Equipment Loan Services following the work undertaken by the Committee in 2002. Members of the original Review Group were pleased to note the positive major changes in Home Equipment Loan Services (HELS). Members are keen to be kept informed in the progress in relation to HELS as there are further changes to be introduced that will impact on the Services.

- (f) **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. It was noted that drafts of the Strategy had been sent round to Members for comments. A Review Group meeting has been arranged for the end of January to allow Members an opportunity to comment on the most recent draft as a Group.
- (g) **Stroke Symptoms** – Stroke Symptoms Task and Finish Review Group has been continuing its work and gathering evidence. The Group has met with Dr Fuat from Carmel Road Surgery, Louise Okello, Head of Planning, Partnerships and Development, and Different Strokes Darlington and have recently met with the Regional Director of the Stroke Association. The Stroke Association is supported of any initiative that raises the profile of stroke. It is envisaged that a final report will be submitted to the next ordinary meeting of the Committee in February 2008, with the recommendation that a stroke information card for Darlington be produced.
- (h) **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 visited their respective Trusts and are well on the way of completing their contributions.
- (i) **Urgent Care Review – County Durham & Darlington Primary Care Trusts** – Berenice Molloy, Senior Acute Care Pathways Development manger, County Durham Primary Care Trust addressed a recent special meeting updating Members on the review being undertaken in respect of Urgent Care. The objective of the review is to develop a specification for the delivery of urgent care services across County Durham and Darlington that meets patient needs, provides a seamless pathway via any provider and delivers value for money. The Review Group have drafted a strategy which is under consultation and the Committee have agreed to under take a very quick Task and Finish Review on the draft Strategy and report their findings back before the end of January 2008.
- (j) **Delivering Equitable Access to Primary Medical Care, Local Procurement for Local Health Centre** – Following the Lord Darzi Interim Report of the NHS Next Stage Review, Louise Okello, Head of Planning, Partnerships and Development, Darlington Primary Care informed the Committee of the Government commitment for the NHS to establish 150 GP led Health Centres across the Country. At present, stakeholders were being updated; the initial outline proposals of the PCT were being shard with partners and views were being sought. The Committee have agreed to under take a Task and Finish Review on the outline proposals and to discuss whether there is a need for a GP led Health Centre in Darlington.
- (k) **Draft Sustainable Community Strategy** – At the recent special meeting of the Committee, Members were consulted on the draft Sustainable Community Strategy and members were encouraged to submit their views to Officers outside the meeting.

- (l) **Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee** – I have recently chaired a number meetings of the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee, with the main agenda item of business being the North East Ambulance Service Trust proposals for Ambulance Contact Centres in the North East of England. Each Tees Valley Authority has consulted their respective Committees and has fed back their responses to the Joint Committee and a response has been sent to NEAS. Darlington Borough Council has the minority point of view and is supporting the proposals put forward by NEAS.
- (m) **LSP Enquiry Group feedback** – A special meeting of the Committee was held recently to receive the feedback from the work undertaken by Darlington Partnership, Enquiry Group 6 in relation to ambition and passion, and “How can we maximise life chances and choices throughout Darlington and ensure continuous improvement for priority people and places through a joined-up approach? “The Chair of the Group, Reverend John Dobson addressed the meeting and all Members of the Council were invited to attend.
- (n) **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. We have examined Cabinet’s Forward Plan, in order to identify areas of particular interest or concern and I have extended an open invitation for the inclusion of additional items on the Committee’s Work Programme.

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

- (a) Briefing with Jane Robinson, Assistant Director – Adult Social Care and Health – Thursday, 6th December, 2007.
- (b) Visit to Darlington Memorial Hospital – County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust Annual Health check Task and Finish Group – Monday, 17th December, 2007.
- (c) Visit to Pallion Fleet, Ambulance Station, Sunderland – North East Ambulance Services Trust – Annual Health Check Task and Finish Group – Friday, 21st December, 2007.
- (d) Briefing with Jane Robinson, Assistant Director – Adult Social Care and Health – Thursday, 3rd January, 2008.
- (e) Stroke Symptoms Task and Finish Group – meeting with Stroke Association – Wednesday, 16th January, 2008.
- (f) MRSA Training – Wednesday, 16th January, 2008.
- (g) NHS Briefing with Darlington PCT and County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust – Wednesday, 23rd January, 2008.

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