
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) **National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS Funded Nursing Care** – At a recent meeting of the Committee, Members received a joint report from the Director of Community Services and Chief Executive Darlington PCT which updated Members on the progress made by Darlington PCT and Darlington Adult Social Care in relation to the implementation of the National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS Funded Nursing Care. It was noted that since the new framework was released in October 2007, Darlington PCT and Adult Social Care had developed a good working relationship and taken several steps to ensure the new framework was being adhered to.
 - (b) **Integration of Health and Social Care in Darlington** – Following the impact of the ‘Our Health, Our Care, Our Say’ white paper and ‘Commissioning a patient lead NHS’ discussions between Adult Services and Darlington PCT led to the development of a Leading Edge project entitled ‘Integration of Health and Social Care Services’. A Project Initiation Document (PID) was developed that encompassed all commissioning and provider activity between the two organisations. The project is now being developed into two separate work streams, Joint Commissioning and Providers. A model of commissioning and an associated framework for Darlington will be drafted, with a view to developing a Joint Commissioning Board for Adults. There will be a revised PID produced and it was agreed that the Committee would consider a future meeting.
 - (c) **Getting ready for Local Involvement Networks (LINKs)** – The Committee received a further update from the Voluntary and Community Sector Liaison Manager, who highlighted the work undertaken by each Task and Finish Group established as a result of the first workshop in November 2007. It was noted that Officers were confident that a host organisation would be appointed by the 1st April 2008 and it was anticipated that host organisation would be selected and announced towards the end of February 2008. The second workshop is taking place on 20th March and will include a brief update of the national policy and presentations from each of the four Task and Finish Groups.
 - (d) **Service Direction Of Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Trust** – The Acting Chief Executive of the Trust briefed Members on the Tees, Esk and Wear Valley Trust’s Strategic Direction, Integrated Business Plan and Service Directory. The Trust has undertaken the development of a number of service strategies in line with the overall Trust Strategy, which have been consolidated into the Integrated Business Plan covering the next five years. The Service Strategies cover Adult Mental Health, Older

People, Learning Disabilities and Forensic Services, Children and Substance Misuse. It was noted that any service change that was considered a significant service change would be consulted upon, although most were the services being realigned and reconfigured to be more effective in line with National Guidance.

- (e) **Sports and Physical Activity Strategy** – The Committee received the final draft of the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy. Members discussed the provision of physical activity for elderly residents, transport issues for rural residents of Darlington, the enhanced use of the extended Schools facilities for community leisure activities, how the success of the Strategy would be measured, the results of the physical activity survey, the obstacles facing volunteers such as CRB checks, etc, funding implications for renting rooms to hold classes or activities, whether the Strategy was sustainable over time, whether the resources have already been approved, should the Strategy be more ambitious and target more than 1% and the need for more plain English to be used throughout the Strategy. The Committee welcomed the Strategy and will look forward to receiving future progress reports of its implementation.
- (f) **Darlington Teenage Pregnancy Strategy – Teenage Pregnancy & Young Parents – Reducing Health Inequalities** – The Committee were pleased to note that there are 25% less young parents living in Darlington now than in 1998, when the work commenced. Donna Thorne, Teenage Pregnancy & Sexual Health Co-ordinator reported information in respect of work being undertaken with teenage pregnancy and young parents, in reducing health inequalities. The Committee offered their congratulations to the Donna and her team.
- (g) **Darlington Borough Council: A Strategy For Improving Health** – The Committee considered the Improving Health Strategy before it was submitted to Cabinet for approval. The Health Improvement Strategy and Action Plan aims to identify the areas to be tackled to address health inequality, which would impact on life expectancy. A Steering Group of Senior Officers from across the Council will be established to be Chaired by the Cabinet Member for Health and Leisure and supported by the Locality Director of Public Health to drive forward the Action Plan. The progress would be continually reported to the Health and Well Being Scrutiny Committee.
- (h) **Older Peoples Strategy** – The Locality Director of Public Health Darlington PCT submitted the final draft of the Strategy prior to consideration at Cabinet. Members of the Committee supported the Strategy, but expressed concerns about the limited nature of consultation undertaken as part of the process. The Committee recommended to Cabinet that they be involved in the consultation on the Action Plan and monitor it's implementation Cabinet supported this recommendation.
- (i) **Stroke Symptoms** – Stroke Symptoms Task and Finish Review Group has submitted its final recommendations to the February Committee meeting. The Committee agreed to support the Task and Finish Review Group's conclusions and the following recommendation: That Darlington Borough Council produce a stroke information card in partnership with Darlington Primary Care Trust and the Soroptimists. The Stroke card was officially launched on Tuesday 11th March 2008.

- (j) **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.
- (k) **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 Momentum – Pathways to Health Care. Darlington, Redcar and Cleveland and Middlesbrough Councils have decided to be kept informed on the Phase 1 consultation while Hartlepool, Stockton and County Durham Councils wish to be involved in the detail. North Yorkshire County Council has yet to establish their position.
- (l) **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) Access to Primary Care Review Group – Friday 1st February 2008.
- (b) Lead Members meeting with NHS Direct – Tuesday 5th February 2008.
- (c) Briefing with Jane Robinson, Assistant Director – Adult Social Care and Health – Thursday, 7th February 2008.
- (d) Older People Strategy Review Group – Thursday, 7th February 2008.
- (e) Meeting with Durham Health Scrutiny Members – Wednesday 13th February 2008.
- (f) Urgent Care and Out of Hours Review Group – Thursday 6th March 2008
- (g) NHS Briefing with Darlington PCT and County Durham and Darlington MHS Trust – Wednesday 19th March 2008.

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