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**OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Social Affairs and Health Scrutiny Committee has undertaken: -
  - (a) **Stroke Symptoms Task and Finish Review Group** – The Stroke Symptoms Task and Finish Review Group, submitted their final report to the Committee expressing their disappointment that the Stroke Association would not support their proposals to design a stroke information card for Darlington residents. However, following an article in the Northern Echo, The Stroke Association has met with the Group to discuss a possible way forward. As a result of these discussions, a special meeting of the Committee will be held in September to bring together the all interested parties including Darlington PCT and County Durham PCT to discuss issues around promoting stroke in Darlington and joining up of services.
  - (b) **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. An initial meeting of each group will take in early September 2007.
  - (c) **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 to provide background information for the new members of the Committee. A Review Group meeting will take place in September to resurrect the review.
  - (d) **Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee** – For the municipal year 2007/08, I have taken over as chair of the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee and recently attended the first meeting of the new Committee, together with Councillor Mrs Scott. The Committee has considered it’s Work Programme and it is envisaged that that 2007/08 will be a busy year for Health Scrutiny across the Tees Valley.
  - (e) **Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust Durham, Foundation Trust Application** – Harry Cronin, Director of Nursing, Psychology and Allied Health Professionals, recently briefed myself and Councillor Mrs Scott on the progress being made to consult with the residents of Darlington as to the Trusts application to become a Foundation Trust. The Director welcomed our comments and advised that a piece would be included in the Town Crier and have a stall in the farmers market very soon. The Committee will also be hosting a special meeting, at West Park Hospital to allow the Committee to be publicly consulted on the Trusts application to become a foundation Trust and an invitation will be sent out to all Members of the Council.

- (f) **Services for Older People in Darlington** – The Committee has received further update reports in relation to the impact of the closure of Ward 52 on the services for older people in Darlington. As such the Committee will be looking at a number of issues raising from this over the coming months. The Committee were pleased to note that communications have improved between Adult Social Services and the County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust and a series of meetings have been arranged.
- (g) **Growing Old Living in Darlington (GOLD) – Older Peoples Strategy** – Councillor Vasey and myself have recently met with Stephen Yeardeley from GOLD to hear about the developments of the Draft Older People’s Strategy for Darlington. As such, Stephen has been invited to attend a special meeting of the Committee to provide an opportunity to feed comments and suggestions into the Strategy. The meeting will be held at Dalkeith House, to encourage public attendance.
- (h) **Information Prescriptions Pilot – Healthclick** – The Committee received an enthusiastic presentation from the PALs Manager, Darlington PCT who explained how ‘healthclick’ would provide information prescriptions, which would signpost patients to a whole host of information and advice on their long term conditions, together with relevant websites and support group details. The scheme is aimed at providing the right information, at the right time, in the right way. Members welcomed the pilot and will look forward to receiving further information when the project goes live.
- (i) **North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust** – Members of Committee have recently enjoyed a visit to the NEAS HQ and received an interesting presentation in relation to NHS Pathways; viewed a showcase of all the different vehicle types used within NEAS; and had the opportunity to meet with the Assistant Operational Manager for A&E and PTS services covering the Darlington area to discuss localised concerns and issues.
- (j) **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 will be continuing to work on our major Mental Health and Well Being Review and of course continue to scrutinise our NHS partners and any potential changes in services.

**Councillor Mrs. Marian Swift**  
**Chair of the Social Affairs and Health Scrutiny Committee**

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

- Legal Issues Training – 29th May 2007.
- Stroke Symptoms Task and Finish Group – 29th May 2007.
- Training from the Foundation Trust – 5th June 2007.
- Briefing with Dr Glenys Jones – 5th June 2007.
- Tobacco Control – 7th June 2007.
- Meeting with Harry Cronin, Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust – 12th June 2007.
- Briefing with Cliff Brown, Director of Community Services – 18th June 2007.
- Meeting with Steve Rose and Stephen Yeardeley regarding GOLD – 19th June 2007.

- Stroke Symptoms Task and Finish Group – 28th June 2007.
- Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee – 2nd July 2007.
- Briefing with Dr Glenys Jones – 3rd July 2007.
- Briefing with County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust – 4th July 2007.
- Visit to NEAS HQ – 10th July 2007.
- Meeting with Durham County Council Health Scrutiny Lead Members – 11th July 2007.