
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 & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust – Seizing the Future** – The Trust facilitated a workshop at Ramside Hall in early June and invited Members from this Scrutiny Committee, together with Members from the Durham County Council’s Joint Health Sub-Committee. The workshop provided Members with an overview of the seizing the future review and discussed feedback from the recent clinical summit, which has lead to options being explored. Members were informed that the Trust intends to go out to consultation in early September, on the options currently being drawn up.
 - (b) **Informal Joint Arrangements with Durham County Council** – Following the above workshop and further Officer discussions, the Health and Well Being Scrutiny Committee have agreed some informal joint arrangements with Durham County Council. A Joint Task and Finish Group will be established, to specifically jointly consider the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trusts’ Seizing the Future Review and the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust developing, mental health services for older people in County Durham and Darlington, consultation on proposals for continuing care and challenging behaviour services. The Joint Task and Finish Group will consist of the three members who are currently appointed to the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee and the Chair and two Vice-Chairs from Durham County Council’s Joint Health Sub Committee. It is agreed that the Joint Task and Finish Group is established as a one off pilot scheme, to only consider the two specific issues of consultation and will be disbanded once the consultations are complete.
 - (c) **Local Involvement Networks (LINKs)** – Kath Soanes, LINKs Operations Manager, Carers Federation, from the Host organisation of the LINK attended the recent Scrutiny Committee and provided information about the Carers Federation and their role within the LINK process. Members were pleased that the Darlington LINK is based at eVOLution and welcomed the forth coming appointment of the Local Engagement Officer who would engage with local Community Groups and build up their local knowledge. The Officer will be invited to the next Scrutiny Committee meeting once in post.
 - (d) **Fair Access to Care in Darlington** – At the last Scrutiny meeting, Members were briefed on the background and application of Fair Access to Care in Darlington. The national trend in Councils raising their thresholds has triggered a review of eligibility criteria by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI). The outcome of the consultation will be reported back to the Committee in due course.

- (e) **Role of the Discharge Management Team at Darlington Memorial Hospital** – The Committee reviewed an overview of the role of the discharge management team, which is divided into two separate sub teams, one dealing with screening of referrals for outside agencies to aid discharge and the other which assesses the patients on the wards prior to discharge. A Matron from the Foundation Trust was present at the meeting and advised that the number of referrals never seemed to drop below 200 each month and that there were 2877 referrals over the last year.
- (f) **Mental Health Services for Older People Strategy** – Members were updated on the intention to develop of a Strategy for Mental Health Services for Older People, that proposes the delivery of a joint social and healthcare delivery of services in Darlington by developing a model that reflects the requirements outlined in Everybody’s Business 2005 and meets local people’s needs. Sue Dixon, Joint Commissioner, Mental Health, Darlington PCT has welcomed the joint approach is currently working towards producing with a draft Strategy. Members of the Committee are keen to see a draft of the Strategy at an early stage to have an opportunity to input into the Strategy.
- (g) **Service Plan Performance Year-End 2007/08** – We examined the summary of performance against Service Plans for which this Scrutiny is responsible for monitoring and scrutinising and were pleased to note that at the end of 2007/08, Service Plans were on or above target for Adult Social Services, Leisure and Arts, Supporting People and Public Protection. It was noted that performance is well above target for the Public Protection Service Plan and there were no indicators where targets had not been achieved and no areas of particular cause for concern.
- (h) **Service Planning 2008/12** – We also gave consideration to the Service Plans for 2008/12, of which there are now five for this Scrutiny Committee: Adult Social Care, Cultural Services, Health Improvement, Public Protection and Supporting People. This Scrutiny will be receiving regular reports on performance targets in the Service Plans on a quarterly basis. If we identify any areas where targets are not being achieved, or are of particular concern to this Scrutiny, further investigations will be undertaken by way of Review.
- (i) **Older Peoples Strategy** – As Chair, I reported the outcome of a recent Review Group meeting where Members considered aspects of the Action Plan, which accompanies the Strategy. The following actions in the Health and Well Being section of the draft action plan have been agreed to be the focus of the review; developing preventative strategies which promote healthy lifestyle choices and promote independence, mapping and promoting healthy ageing programmes, an overarching term for a range of programmes delivered by agencies who work with Older People, developing well-being on prescription e.g. Darlington One Life and other forms of social prescribing and developing a Workplace Health Award recognising the contributions employees make and responsibility of employers. Discussion has taken place regarding the membership of the Steering Group, which includes a local GP and a representative from the Darlington branch of B and Q.
- (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 clinical and cost effectiveness, governance, care environment and amenities, and public health to inform our contribution to each Trusts final declaration of compliance for 2008/09. An initial meeting of each group will take during the summer months.

- (k) **Special meeting** – A Special meeting of the Committee is being held on 15 July, 2008 when Members will have the opportunity to respond to the Consultation on proposals for improved access to GP Services in Darlington, an essential component of the Committees Work Programme.
- (l) **Work Programme 2008/2009** – We have given consideration to the Work Programme of this Committee for the Municipal Year 2008/09 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) Our Vision, Our Future, Our North East NHS Launch – Newcastle Racecourse – Thursday, 22nd May 2008.
- (b) Briefing with Democratic Services – Thursday, 29th May 2008.
- (c) Briefing with Bob Parker, Adult Social Care and Miriam Davidson, Locality Director of Public Health – Wednesday, 4th June 2008.
- (d) Workshop with County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust and Durham County Council Health Scrutiny Members – Seizing the Future – Friday 6th June 2008.
- (e) Lead Health and Well Being Members Briefing – Wednesday, 18th June 2008.
- (f) Briefing with David Gallagher, Commissioning Lead County Durham PCT – Wednesday, 18th June 2008.

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