
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 Committee continues to engage with County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust regarding the proposals being formulated following the Seizing the Future Review. The Trust’s aim of the Seizing the Future review is to ensure the best services for patients while maximising the use of all of the hospital sites and outlined the national, regional and local challenges behind the case for change. Lead Members have recently met with the Chief Executive of the Trust and received an update of the progress towards consultation. Members are aware of the three options that will be consulted upon and received a confidential copy of the draft consultation document and were asked for their comments. A Task and Finish Group was established to feed back Members comments to the Trust. It was explained how the review is being driven by quality of care and patient safety and highlighted the assessment made by Sir George Alberti during a recent visit and his conclusion that “no change is not an option.” The Trust have met with County Durham Primary Care Trust and Darlington Primary Care Trust Board who have agreed in principle to support the proposal to proceed with formal public consultation, subject to further detail being developed. Following the Task and Finish Group meeting with representatives from the Trust, Members comments were welcomed from the Trust. The Trust acknowledged that further clarity was needed to demonstrate that the consultation and proposed changes are for the patients’ benefits and that patient safety is the key driver. Lead members of the Committee will continue to meet with the Trust before the consultation is officially launched.
 - (b) **Special meeting – Formal Consultation on Seizing the Future** – There will be a special meeting of the Committee on Tuesday, 14th October 2008, where Stephen Eames, Chief Executive of County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust and his team will address the meeting and Members will formally be consulted on proposals resulting from the Seizing the Future Review. All Members of Council are invited to attend this meeting as there will be discussion around changes to the services provided at Darlington Memorial Hospital which will impact on the whole town. As Chair, I am keen that all Members of Council are aware of the potential vulnerability of Darlington Memorial Hospital, if, as a result of the consultation, the proposals are not agreed.
 - (c) **Darlington Primary Care Trust – Consultation On Proposals For Improved Access To GP Services In Darlington** – Members were officially consulted on how Darlington Primary Care Trust (PCT) is proposing to implement the recommendations

relating to the development of GP led health centres/services included in Professor Lord Darzi's NHS Stage Review Interim Report. It was explained that following the Darzi Interim Report, every PCT nationally was tasked with developing a new health centre service. The service would be in addition to existing provision and would provide patients with more flexible access to GP's and other services in line with identified needs locally. The proposals for Darlington have been formulated based upon national operational guidelines and local health needs assessment. The consultation consulted on three issues: - the location of service, views about the services to be delivered and the criteria that people think should be used for assessing potential providers. The Committee supported the proposals for the addition of services to the Walk In Centre at Dr Piper House operating from 8am -8pm, in principle, as it will increase the services available in the town, that are needed. Although, Members expressed concerns to the number of people who have been consulted and suggested that the PCT think about consulting in supermarkets, on Saturdays, to talk to more people and consider the overarching issues surrounding transport services.

- (d) **Darlington Primary Care Trust Prospectus 2008/09** – Darlington PCT presented the first Darlington Prospectus to the Committee at the Special meeting in July 2008. Darlington's PCT Prospectus details the future direction for local health services and summarises local commissioning priorities as developed through the Annual Operational Plan. A number of stakeholders were involved in the production of the prospectus, including this Scrutiny Committee and the prospectus has been distributed to all those involved. Members welcomed the prospectus as a way of highlighting and promoting the PCT services.
- (e) **NHS Constitution Consultation** – The lead Members on the Committee have received briefings on the draft NHS Constitution, which provided a perspective on the purpose and merits of the NHS Constitution. All Members of Council have received a summary of the NHS Constitution Consultation document and the Committee has established a Task and Finish Group to formally respond to the consultation and an invite was circulated to all Members of Council to attend the meeting.
- (f) **Primary Care Trust Restructure** – Colin Morris, Chief Executive of Darlington PCT addressed the last ordinary Committee meeting, briefing Members on the structural changes that have taken place within Darlington PCT. He explained that there are two specific challenges facing the PCT; World Class Commissioning and the associated accreditation, and the developments around PCT provider functions. There has been on going work in County Durham and Darlington to create the visible split in responsibility between the commissioner and provider function, of the two PCT's. As such the PCT's have separated budgets, transferred staff and introduced Service Level Agreements for provision of services across both PCT's. Members welcomed the changes and were pleased that Darlington PCT has created its own Board and Executive Directors solely with a Darlington focus.
- (g) **Annual Report Of The Director Of Public Health 2007/08 Narrowing The Gap In Coronary Heart Disease And Cancers, County Durham And Darlington** – The Locality Director of Public Health, Darlington PCT presented to Members the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2007/08. The report considers in detail two

conditions (Coronary Heart Disease and Cancers) which together account for more than 50% of the gap in life expectancy between the population of Darlington and England as a whole. The report also describes the actions that need to be taken to narrow the gap. During the discussion Members identified that the prostate cancer screening was not included in the cancer screening programme and have added this issue to the Work Programme for future scrutiny. Information on prostate cancer has been circulated to all Members of Council, to raise awareness.

- (h) **Adult Social Care Compliments, Comments, Suggestions And Complaints Procedure And Annual Report 2007/2008** – Members were pleased to note that the number of complaints received within Adult Social Care Services has reduced since last years report. During the discussion it was noted that there was a number of complaints received within the Independent Home Care service area, and Members enquired whether it was a particular provider who was receiving complaints and how the complaints are dealt with. As a result, it was agreed that interested Members of the Committee establish a Task and Finish Review Group to scrutinise this issue.
- (i) **Assistive Technology Project 2008/2009** – The Committee received a report updating Members on the Leading Edge Project, Assistive Technology Project 2008/09. The project aims to develop a comprehensive Telecare Service, building on from the two years of Assistive Technology pilots across Darlington. The Telecare Service provides mobile alarms such as fall detectors, which provide an enhanced automated monitoring system on top of the current community alarm service. The service in Darlington is provided in partnership between Adult Social Care and Housing Services. It was highlighted that the target was for 100 users by 2009 and that at the end of July 2008 there was 43 service users benefiting from Telecare. Assistive Technology training is carried out in the demonstration flat at Rosemary Court, Darlington and Members have expressed an interest in visiting Rosemary Court to witness assistive technology for themselves.
- (j) **Supporting People Commissioning Strategy Update** – Members received an update on the progress of the Supporting People Commissioning Strategy, following last year's joint meeting with Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Committee. The Commissioning Strategy sets out a timetable by which services for each client group are subject to discussions around future provision. During the first year of the Strategy (2007/2008), reviews of services for ex-offenders and those at risk of offending, and older people with support needs were undertaken. Consultation exercises have been undertaken with service users and stakeholders, as part of these reviews. The Committee will continue to receive regular updates of the reviews being undertaken.
- (k) **Sports And Physical Activity Strategy Update** – Members examined an update report on the progress made to date, against the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy and the associated Action Plan, as considered by the Committee in February 2008. The submitted report highlighted the funding secured to deliver against the Action Plan Priorities and the projects that the funding will be used to deliver on. Members congratulated Officers on the recent Community Games and hoped that all Primary Schools in the Borough would participate at next year's event. Members are interested in the work of the Community Sports Network (CSN). Councillor Nutt has agreed to

represent the Committee at the CSN next meeting to report any issues back to the Committee.

- (l) **Mental Health Services for Older People Strategy** – At the recent Scrutiny Committee meeting, Members welcomed the draft Strategy for mental health services for older people in Darlington. Concerns were raised about the challenges that need to be addressed in the future and eventual the impact of mental illness and mental health problems on future generations.
- (m) **Developing Mental Health Services for Older People in County Durham and Darlington** – Members have recently responded to the Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust consultation on developing mental health services for older people in County Durham and Darlington. Members do not feel that the proposals will have a huge impact on the services in Darlington, although some concerns were expressed about the future impact on services in the community and potential funding implications for Darlington. As a result of the proposals being implemented, Members have requested to be kept informed of the progress.
- (n) **Older Peoples Strategy** – Members of the Committee have been seeking views from the general public and members of GOLD at the recent GOLD Tea Dance and Positive Health Day, this feedback will assist the Committee with the Review of the Older Peoples Strategy specifically the element of preparing for retirement. The feedback is being analysed by Darlington PCT and will be considered by the Committee in due course. Members of the Steering Group have recently met with a Council HR Officer to consider the Council's retirement Policy and as a result have expressed an interest in attending a Council run pre retirement course.
- (o) **Joint work with Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – Tasting School Meals** – Members of the Scrutiny Committee together with Members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee have jointly tasted school meals in three Schools in the Borough. Members who undertook the visits have recently met and drafted some recommendations. The recommendations will be considered by both Scrutiny Committees and be submitted to Cabinet in due course.
- (p) **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. Initial meetings of each group have taken place and work is being undertaken in relation to the first core standard chosen.
- (q) **Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee** – I have attended two meetings of the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee, the main item of business for a number of meetings has been North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) Trust proposals to for Ambulance Contact Centres in the North East of England. The Joint Committee has referred the decision to the Secretary of State and a review is being carried out by the Independent Reconfiguration Panel and the outcome will be reported back to Joint Committee in due course. The Joint Committee have agreed a number of issues to be

considered over the coming months such as Cancer Screening Services; Emergency Care Assistants; NEAS Foundation Trust Status application and Prison Mental Health Services, Community Based Services and Out of Hours Mental Health Services.

- (r) **Local Involvement Networks (LINKs)** – The Lead Members of the Committee have recently met with the LINK Team Leader and the LINK Community Engagement Officer. Members were advised that there was a board membership of LINKs and that an interim Core Group had also been established, who are responsible for creating the Governance arrangements of the LINK and deciding how the LINK will work. Discussion ensued about the process of selecting an interim Core Group and we are pleased to note that there will be a full democratic election process carried out in March 2009.
- (s) **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) Annual Health Check, Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust, Task and Finish Group – Monday, 14th July 2008.
- (b) Tasting School Meals visit to Skerne Park School – Tuesday, 15th July 2008.
- (c) Community Games, Eastbourne Sports Complex – Tuesday, 22nd July 2008
- (d) NHS Briefing with Darlington PCT and County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust – Wednesday, 23rd July 2008.
- (e) Lead Health and Well Being Members Briefing with Assistant Director – Adult Social Care and Locality Director of Public Health – Wednesday, 23rd July 2008.
- (f) Joint Task and Finish Group meeting with Durham County Council – Tuesday, 29th July 2008.
- (g) Gateway Review Meeting – Thursday, 31st July 2008.
- (h) Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee – Friday, 1st August 2008.
- (i) Retirement Steering Group meeting – Wednesday, 13th August 2008.
- (j) GOLD Tea Dance – Friday, 15th August 2008.
- (k) Joint Task and Finish Group meeting with Durham County Council – Monday, 18th August 2008.

- (l) Lead Health and Well Being Members Briefing with Assistant Director – Adult Social Care and Locality Director of Public Health – Tuesday, 19th August 2008.
- (m) Annual Health Check, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, Task and Finish Review Group – Tuesday, 19th August 2008.
- (n) Annual Health Check, Darlington Primary Care Trust, Task and Finish Review Group – Wednesday, 20th August 2008.
- (o) Members Training – Commissioning with David Gallagher, Commissioning Lead, County Durham Primary Care Trust – Thursday, 28th August 2008.
- (p) Joint Task and Finish Group with Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – School Meals – Thursday, 28th August 2008.
- (q) NHS Briefing with Darlington PCT and County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust – Wednesday, 3rd September 2008.
- (r) Darlington Primary Care Trust Board meeting – Thursday, 4th September 2008.
- (s) Retirement Steering Group – Friday, 5th September 2008.
- (t) GOLD Positive Health Day – Wednesday, 10th September 2008.
- (u) PCT Stakeholder Event – Monday, 15th September 2008.
- (v) Seizing the Future Task and Finish Group – Monday, 15th September 2008.
- (w) Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee – Tuesday, 16th September 2008.
- (x) Lead Health and Well Being Members Briefing – Wednesday, 17th September 2008.
- (y) Lead Members meeting with LINKs Officers – Wednesday, 17th September 2008.

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