
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 consultation document which has resulted from the Seizing the Future Review. Lead Members of the Committee have regular briefings with the Chief Executive of Trust to keep updated of the responses received and the momentum of the ‘Save of Hospital’ campaign at Bishop Auckland General Hospital. As Chair, of the Committee I would urge all Members of Council to get behind this consultation and response directly to the consultation. A number of public meetings have been held and stalls were set up in the Cornmill Shopping Centre in early November to encourage public participation in the Consultation. There is still time to respond to the document, as the consultation does not end until 12th January 2009.
 - (b) **Special meeting – Formal Consultation on Seizing the Future** – A Special meeting of the Committee was held on Tuesday, 14th October 2008, and Stephen Eames, Chief Executive of County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust delivered a PowerPoint presentation, outlining to Members some background information in respect of the seizing the future review of services, the structure of the project, the local and national challenges, the case for change, the risk of doing nothing, generation of options, external assessments and the consultation process. The meeting was extremely interesting and lots of valuable discussion was had. The Committee have agreed not to make a formal response to the consultation at this stage, but have charged Members to raise the profile of the consultation in their wards and gather feedback from members of the public to inform the Committee’s response. The Committee will reconvene the meeting in early January 2009, to formulate their response to the Seizing the Future Consultation and again all Members of Council will be invited to attend the meeting.
 - (c) **Special Meeting – Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Issues** – Members of the Committee were recently welcomed to Clifton Road Community Centre and held a special meeting to consider a number of issues under mental health and learning disabilities umbrella. Members considered items in respect of the Autism Strategy, NHS Campus Closures, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards, Amendments to the Mental Health Act 1983 and Valuing People Now. This was the first ever themed Scrutiny Committee meeting and Special meetings of the Committee will in future be themed to provide an opportunity for detailed scrutiny of a particular service area. This meeting

was very successful for both Members and Officers alike and a further meeting will be held next year, to enable Members to be updated on the progress.

- (d) **NHS Constitution Consultation** – Members of the Committee and Council were invited to attend a Task and Finish Review Group meeting to consider the Draft NHS Constitution. Members met with David Gallagher, Director of Corporate Strategies, Services and Relations, NHS County Durham who guided Members through the document. Members were in agreement that the Constitution is a worthwhile document and have acknowledged that having all NHS values and principles in one combined Constitution laid down a positive message. Although, Members did suggest that the general public may already think that such a document was already in existence. In Members opinion, the document clearly outlines what patients can expect and what is expected from patients and welcomed the summary document and thought that the general public would be likely to read it, although, only when they have a problem or complaint. A formal response to the consultation has been submitted to the Secretary of State on behalf of the Committee.
- (e) **Delivering Race Equality In Mental Health Care** – Representatives from Black Minority Ethnic (BME) Community Development Service, Mental Health Matters, attended a recent Committee meeting to discuss the Delivering Race Equality Local Charter and requested the Committees endorsement. The BME Community Development Services has been commissioned by County Durham and Darlington Primary Care Trusts to work towards the Government’s agenda - Delivering Race Equality. The Local Charter will be for services to sign up to work towards the actions of Delivering Race Equality. There will also be a guidance tool to support the services to implement actions of Delivering Race Equality. The guidance tool will include useful suggestions and examples of good practice explaining how services can adhere to the Charter. The Committee has pleasure in endorsing the Charter and are looking forward to seeing it on display.
- (f) **Safer Drinking – Safer Darlington: Darlington’s Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2008-2011** – Members have welcomed the work on the Darlington’s Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2008-2011 and recently received a presentation from the Darlington Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) Joint Commissioning Unit Manger. The Committee was advised that the Strategy was in line with the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Darlington Partnership’s Themed Groups. Lots of positive work has been undertaken since the launch of the Strategy and Members acknowledged that further work was still required and that the momentum needed to be sustained. Members are delighted that Darlington has been successful to host the North East Alcohol Office in Darlington, which would immediately raise Darlington’s profile and also that Darlington’s bid to be an early implementation site, has been successful.
- (g) **Transformation Of Social Care** – The Committee received a PowerPoint presentation from the Assistant Director: Adult Social Care and Health. The presentation detailed the reasons behind the transformation, the impact of ‘Our Health, Our Care, Our Say’, personalisation changes, the impact of ‘Putting People First’, the system wide transformation, personal and individual budgets, key messages and working together, the top five challenges for providers and commissioners, the top five

opportunities for providers and commissioners and how Darlington will move forward as a result. Members welcomed the change and look forward to receiving regular updates on the progress.

- (h) **Safe Guarding Adults in Darlington – 2007/08 Update Report** – Members were advised of progress in respect of the development of systems and procedures to safeguard adults in Darlington. Members are pleased that the Safeguarding Adults Board is Chaired by the Director of Community Services and has been established to fulfil the ‘No Secrets’ management committee function in Darlington and has high level representation from all partners, thus emphasising the renewed strategic importance. The Board is supported by a Lead Officers Group, Chaired by the Assistant Director: Adult Social Care and Health and comprises of appropriate senior operational managers from the partner organisations. This Group is tasked by the Board with implementing its strategic plans. Members are pleased to note that a business case is being developed for the Safeguarding Board to seek additional funding from partners to increase the overall capacity available for this work, and ensure that a more proactive approach can be adopted, particularly in terms of prevention. Members of the Committee are keen to raise the profile of safe guarding adults and as a result they will receive regular updates every six months.
- (i) **Older Peoples Strategy** – Members of the Review have had the opportunity to meet with B&Q staff over retirement age and have viewed the ‘can do ‘ range of home adaptations for older people. Members who attended the meeting shared their delight at the positive staff experiences they heard. Following the visit Darlington Borough Council has established a link with B&Q and the Occupational Therapists and leaflets and signposting advice will be directly to members of the public purchasing can do equipment at B&Q. The Group have recently met and received evidence from Audrey Lax and in relation to the she work she has undertaken entitled ‘heat or eat’ and her subsequent visit to Berlin. The Group will meet in December to consider the work being undertaken in respect of the Healthy Workplace Awards and the mapping of services for older people.
- (j) **Joint work with Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – Tasting School Meals** – Members of the Scrutiny Committee considered the final report in respect of the joint work that Members of this Committee and Members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee have undertaken to taste school meals in three Schools in the Borough. The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee will now be considering the report before it is submitted to Cabinet for consideration.
- (k) **Annual Health Checks** – In preparation for the Annual Health Check process, this 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. All four of the Task and Finish Groups have held the initial meetings and some groups have undertaken visits to their respective Trusts and to see for themselves whether the core standards are being met.

- (l) **Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee** – I have attended two meetings of the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee, and the Committee has agreed to commence a review into Cancer Screening Services across the Tees Valley and this will include Darlington. The Joint Committee has also considered the Seizing the Future Consultation and has received the concluded outcome from the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) in respect of the North East Ambulance Services Contact Centre Proposals.
 - (m) **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) NHS Constitution, Task and Finish Review Group – Tuesday, 30th September 2008.
 - (b) Annual Health Check, Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust , Task and Finish Review Group – Thursday, 2nd October 2008.
 - (c) Seizing the Future Briefing – Thursday, 2nd October 2008
 - (d) NHS Constitution Conference, Newcastle Racecourse – Friday 3rd October 2008.
 - (e) Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust Briefing – Monday 6th October 2008.
 - (f) Older People’s Strategy Review Group – Wednesday, 8th October 2008.
 - (g) Annual Health Check, Darlington Primary Care Trust, Task and Finish Review Group – Thursday, 9th October, 2008.
 - (h) Older People’s Strategy Review Group – Tuesday, 4th November 2008.
 - (i) NHS Briefing with Darlington PCT and County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust – Wednesday, 5th November 2008.
 - (j) Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust Briefing – Wednesday, 5th November 2008.
 - (k) Darlington Partnership Consultation on Seizing the Future – Tuesday, 11th November 2008.

Councillor Marian Swift

Chair of the Health and Well Being Scrutiny Committee