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**OVERVIEW OF HEALTH AND WELL BEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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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** – 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 also have met with equivalent colleagues at Durham County Council to share views. The Trust have also shared its Winter Plan 2008/09 with the Committee which outlined the plans for managing service pressures during the winter months, due to the seasonal fluctuations in demand. The plan includes additional capacity to respond to winter pressures, and details the contingencies to cope with unexpected pressures on the service that may occur at any time of the year.
  - (b) **Special Meeting – Formal Consultation on Seizing the Future** – A Special meeting of the Committee was held on Tuesday, 6th January 2009, for the Committee to formally respond to the Seizing the Future consultation. The Committee have agreed to support the Trusts proposals and unanimously Option B. Members have particularly been impressed with the communications that the Trust has had with the Committee and have welcomed all their involvement and co-operation; particularly around the preparation for formal consultation when the Trust openly approached Members for feedback as to how the consultation could be shaped for Darlington residents. The Committee have formally responded to the consultation and have included positive messages about how the consultation has been handled and that Members have welcomed every opportunity to input into the process.
  - (c) **Special Meeting – Stroke Services** – Members of the Committee received a presentation from Anthony Prudhoe, Assistant Director Joint Commissioning, NHS County Durham, on Stroke Care and recent developments, which included a summary of the stroke care review and highlighted raising awareness, TIA and minor stroke, life after stroke and leadership and skills as the key areas of stroke care. Members were advised that lots of work has been undertaken within the last year around stroke care services, but acknowledged that there was still a lot to do. An investment of £1.8m to improve access to rehabilitation services has been awarded to the Trust and a breakdown of how the funds will be allocated will be reported to Members at a future meeting.
  - (d) **NHS County Durham/NHS Darlington Annual Operational Plan 2008/09 Update and Consultation On The Development Of The Annual Operational Plan For 2009/2010** – Members of the Committee were consulted upon the Annual Operational

Plan 2009/10 and received an update on the progress of the Annual Operational Plan for 2008/09 for both NHS County Durham and NHS Darlington. The development of the Annual Operational Plan (AOP) is part of the Primary Care Trusts five year strategic planning framework and NHS County Durham are leading on the process on behalf of NHS Darlington. NHS County Durham is currently assessing progress against last years Annual Delivery Plan and identifying emerging priorities in line with the PCT's local five year Strategic Plan. The consultation aims to ensure that Darlington residents and other key stake holders have the opportunity to comment on and influence the development of the AOP by submitting their views on the emerging local health priorities and issues. Members of the Committee were pleased to be consulted and agreed with the Commissioning Intentions set out in the report.

- (e) **Holly Ward – West Park Hospital, Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust** – At the last Scrutiny Committee meeting, Members were briefed on the changes to rehabilitation services, including the changes to Holly Ward. It was explained that due to the change of patient behaviour patterns the need for rehabilitation services and continuing care services was changing and the rehabilitation services provided in Holly Ward was no longer sustainable for the Trust. The Trust has other facilities which will provide rehabilitation services for patients across the patch, including Darlington. Holly Ward was officially closed on 10th December 2008. The premises will now be used for pilot drug and alcohol deetox programmes. The Committee will continue to be kept informed.
- (f) **Pre-Consultation On North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust – Application To Become A Foundation Trust** – At the December Committee meeting, Members views were sought on the process and areas of interest in North East Ambulance Services applying to become a Foundation Trust. Members were informed that the consultation is planned to be held between March and June 2009 and a submitted report appended the vision for the North East Ambulance Service and a separate discussion paper which also highlighted the issues raised to date. Members welcomed the early communications from the Trust and are looking forward to being involved in the formal consultation.
- (g) **Adult Social Services Annual Performance Assessment** – Members of the Scrutiny Committee have congratulated Officers from Adult Social Services following its recent three star rating, for the third year running following the Annual Performance Assessment of Social Care Services for Adults carried out by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI). Members received a report which also highlighted several key strengths within Adult Social Care, together with areas where continued improvement will be focused, those being; developing self-directed support and individual budgets, increasing support using technology and supporting more people into employment.
- (h) **Mental Health & Older People's Strategy, Action Plan** – Members have recently signed off the Mental Health and Older People's Strategy Action Plan, at the Committees last ordinary meeting. Members will continue to have a 'watching brief' on the Action Plan to ensure that adequate monitoring is in place and that actions are met.

- (i) **Carers' Strategy and Implementation Plan 2008 – 2011** – Members have also endorsed the draft Carer's Strategy and Implementation Plan 2008 – 2011, at the last ordinary Committee meeting. The meeting was informed that the Strategy and Implementation Plan has been developed to identify ways to continue to provide better support to carers in Darlington and was building on the commitments and successes of the previous Annual Carers' Strategies and Implementation Plans which have been in place since 2001. Members welcomed the Strategy and were interested in finding out more about the young carers in Darlington and how awareness could be raised in schools, through Governing Bodies. It was suggested that Members undertake a piece of work in relation to young carers when preparation begins for the production of a Young Carers Strategy.
- (j) **Older Peoples Strategy Review** – Members of the Review Group have continued to meet regularly and have considered the work being undertaken in respect of the Healthy Workplace Awards and the mapping of services for older people. The Group has also met the Darlington One Life Co-Ordinator and investigated other forms of social prescribing. The Group will meet again in February to consider Preventative Strategies and consider how the review will be concluded.
- (k) **Independent Care Home Complaints Task and Finish Review Group** – At the Committee's August meeting, Members considered the Adult Social Care Compliments, Comments, Suggestions and Complaints Procedure and Annual Report 2007/2008. As a result of the report, Members raised concerns in respect of the number of complaints received within the Independent Home Care Services area and whether it was a particular provider who was receiving complaints and how they were dealt with. A Task and Finish Review Group was established at that meeting, to look at this issue in more detail. The Review concluded that Members are extremely satisfied with the scrutiny investigation and that the complaints are being handled in accordance to procedure and sufficient monitoring is in place. It was also suggested that the compliments received by the Independent Care Homes providers be included in the statistics reported to Adults Services.
- (l) **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 are well on the way to meeting the April deadline to comment on the chosen standards. Some Groups have undertaken visits to their respective Trusts and to see for themselves whether the core standards are being met.
- (m) **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 also considered information in relation to Ambulance crew staff and agreed a way forward in respect of the concluded outcome

from the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) in respect of the North East Ambulance Services Contact Centre Proposals.

- (n) **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) Lead Members Briefing with Locality Director of Public Health and Assistant Directors Adults & Social Care – Wednesday, 3rd December 2008.
- (b) Scrutinising Health & Well Being Conference, Newcastle Racecourse – Thursday, 11th December 2008.
- (c) Older People’s Strategy Review Group – Friday, 9th January 2009.
- (d) NHS Briefing with Darlington PCT and County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust – Wednesday, 14th January 2009.
- (e) Briefing on LINKs – Wednesday, 14th January 2009.

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