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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 – Seizing the Future** – The Committee has received initial findings from the completion of the ‘Seizing the Future’ consultation process which ended on 12th January, 2009. It was noted that as part of the consultation process, 160,000 consultation leaflets had been delivered house-to-house and 17 public meetings had been held which accumulated 209 attendees, a bespoke website had gained 2,300 visits to the site which had generated 235 responses, and 940 postal responses had been received with 235 online responses. Following analysis of the figures, the proportionate response from Darlington is 64 per cent response for the case for change; 27 per cent disagree and 9 per cent undecided. 54 per cent of the responses to the consultation agree with the process and 82 per cent are in support of one of the options. Members were advised that a report would be considered by the Board of Foundation Trust in February taking into account all proposals from the consultation and also taking into account the 15k signature petition which had been presented to Downing Street on 5th January, on behalf of the Save Our Hospital Campaign, against the seizing the future proposals. The final report will also be presented to the County Durham PCT Board who will consider the proposals after 3rd March and scrutinise further. The County Durham Overview and Scrutiny Committee will also have an opportunity to comment on the responses to their recommendation thereafter. Members will continually be briefed at future meetings and also be kept informed of the on-going implementation planning over the next 12 to 18 months.
  - (b) **Special Meeting – Rosemary Court** – At the special meeting of the Committee on 20th January 2009, Members received a presentation on Telecare and how it works, including information on lifeline units, bed sensors, pill sensors and fall detectors all linked into the CCTV Control Room and Telehealth and the equipment used by patients to monitor themselves. Members received a visit to the Demo Room at Rosemary Court, to view the Assistive Technology equipment. As a result Members will undertake a visit to CCTV Control once the new Jontek software has been up and running, as it is currently being installed.
  - (c) **National Stroke Strategy Review Project 2008/09** – At the recent special meeting Members received a report which outlined the background to the launch of the National Stroke Strategy, and the approach Durham and Darlington PCT, this Council and Durham County Council have taken to date in reviewing the current service provision; and the proposal to design and implement a service model to improve Stroke services for Darlington and Durham residents. Members also gave consideration to the Stroke Service model and the proposal put forward for grant

funding awarded to Adult Social Care to support the implementation of the National Stroke Strategy. The Committee are pleased that progress is being made in relation to stroke services, although it is felt that more awareness raising is still required.

- (d) **Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust's Strategic Direction** – The Committee has recently been consulted on the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust's Strategic Direction, which highlighted the Trusts revised strategic objectives. The Strategic Direction, together with the Integrated Business Plan, underpinned the Trusts successful application for the Foundation Trust Status. The strategic objectives are still draft for the Trust Board to continue to work on them over the coming months and Members' comments were welcomed.
- (e) **Integration of Health and Social Care services in Darlington** – Members have received a further update on the integration of health and social care services in Darlington and it was highlighted that the work to progress Joint Commissioning between this authority's Adult Social Care and NHS Darlington had led to the development of two Joint Commissioning Posts; one to be the strategic lead for Older and Disabled People and the other for People with a Learning Disability. These posts are initially for a period of 18 months and commenced 1st January, 2009. Members welcomed the effective partnership working by this Council and NHS Darlington and were pleased it was further demonstrated by the Project Steering Group who have produced a Project Initiation Document, which will look at streams of work to take forward integration in Darlington. Two key work streams have been identified as priorities are the integration of Intermediate Care Services and Single Access Point for Health and Social Care.
- (f) **Darlington Teenage Pregnancy Strategy** – Members were delighted to receive the positive progress of Darlington's Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and Accelerated Action Plan. The Teenage Pregnancy Co-Ordinator NHS Darlington introduced a PowerPoint presentation to a recent Scrutiny Committee meeting, which provided a background into the Strategy, pregnancy trends in Darlington and hotspots, a rise in conceptions in 2006 and the accelerated actions throughout 2008/09. It was explained that the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy for Darlington aims to reduce the conception rate by 55% in under 18's by 2010 and prevent social exclusion of those who choose to become parents. This has resulted in 2006 in a 13% reduction of unintended conceptions in girls under 18. Darlington has made good progress in line with Regional and National targets, although, further work is being done to accelerate the actions to ensure that the national target of a 55% reduction is achieved by 2010. Members were in agreement that education was linked to improving the under 18 conception rates and this could be achieved by joint working with Schools. Members were disappointed that the good work being undertaken in the Primary Schools was not being continued within the Secondary Schools. The Committee resolved to refer the issue to Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee for further consideration in respect of Schools Confidentially Policies and take up of SRE Training.
- (g) **Community Equipment Services** – Members have been updated on the Home Equipment Loans Service (HELs) and have welcomed the updated changes that have occurred between 2007 - 2008. Members also welcomed the new management structure and the formation of a group consisting of PCT and Social Care Managers, to

consider the Service Level Agreement and HELS. A Project Manager will be reviewing HELS and wheelchair services, which Members were pleased to note, in line with the completion of the Department of Health study on 'Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchair Services'. It was pleasing to note that the electronic ordering of equipment was continuing to be successful. Equipment is ordered on line and performance has risen at Darlington Adult Social Care from 93% of pieces of standard equipment delivered within seven days in 2006/07 to 96% in 2007/08. Members praised the report and were delighted that things were moving forward, although, it was stated that collection of equipment was still an issue. Comments were made around the frustration and distress caused by equipment not being collected within a reasonable time frame. Members were concerned that if HELS was taken over by an external provider that a clear returns procedure needed to be established. It was reported that a Contestability Plan was being developed and would be considered at a future Committee meeting.

- (h) **Sport And Physical Activity Strategy** – Members have recently received a report on the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy and the associated Action Plan. Councillor Nutt is representing the Committee by regularly attending the Community Sports Network (CSN). The report highlighted developments through the Community Sports Network, since the last update, those being:- Darlington Playing Pitch and Facilities Strategy; Locality Working; Sports Unlimited; PCT Partnership; Lone Active+; Transport Programme; Targeted Swimming Action Plan; Children Centre's Subsidised Swimming Plan; Dance Mats; Healthy Vending and Darlington Food Festival and Family Walk. Members will continue to be updated on the Strategy.
- (i) **Update on proposed Arts Centre Development** – The Scrutiny Committee has received a report following Cabinet's agreement in principle to the sale of a section of land at the rear of Darlington Arts Centre to enable the expansion of existing Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College (QESFC) premises should funding for the scheme be sourced. A clear commitment has also been given to retaining a Young People's Theatre facility within the scope of any development and accommodating all existing tenants, clubs and societies. It was explained to Members that the project is in the very early stages and QESFC has not secured the funding it requires to expand its premises and that no planning application has been made and plans for the building are at discussion stage. Members welcomed the update and have requested further information in due course.
- (j) **Adult Mental Health Services and Proposed Key Service Change Areas** – The Assistant Director Joint Commissioning/Lead Commissioner – Mental Health and Learning Disabilities has recently briefed Members on the Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust's proposals for key service changes to Adult Mental Health services. Services proposed to be changed are inpatient services (mainly in Durham); rehabilitation and supported living; Community Services; Day Services and Primary Care – Psychological Therapies. The Committee will receive updates as the proposals are implemented.
- (k) **Older Peoples Strategy Review** – Members of the Review Group have continued to meet regularly and have considered the work being undertaken in respect of Preventative Strategies relating to healthy eating, falls prevention and low level

services. The Review Group has also met in early March to draft together some recommendations, which will be considered at the Committees ordinary meeting in April 2009.

- (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 nearing the end of the evidence gathering exercise and draft statements are being produced, ahead of the April deadline.
  
- (m) **Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee** – The Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee has met twice since my last report. The Joint Committee has considered the services that Darlington offers for cancer screening as a comparison to the Tees Valley services. It has been agreed that further examination into the reasons for not taking up cancer screening across the Tees Valley is required. The Joint Committee has also been briefed on the Community Based Arrhythmia Service, Recent NHS Advertising Campaign, to which further work will be undertaken and the pre consultation for the Ambulance Trust for Foundation Trust status. The Joint Committee have concerns about the proportionality of the Board of Governors and will continue to consider the proposals for the Trust becoming a Foundation Trust through in depth scrutiny.
  
- (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) Transport to Health Briefing – Monday, 26th January 2009.
- (b) Older People’s Strategy Review Group – Wednesday, 4th February 2009.
- (c) Transport to Health Briefing with Durham County Council and County Durham NHS Officers – Monday 16th February 2009.
- (d) Lead Members Briefing with Locality Director of Public Health and Assistant Directors Adults & Social Care – Wednesday, 18th February 2009.
- (e) Older People’s Strategy Review Group – Friday, 6th March 2009.
- (f) Lead Members Briefing with NHS Representatives – Wednesday, 11th March 2009.

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