
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** – At a special meeting of the Committee in March, Members received detailed presentations in respect of the outcome of seizing the future. Firstly from Proportion, the consultants who facilitated the process for and provided an independent assessment of the seizing the future formal public consultation, secondly, feedback from NHS County Durham, who lead the consultation exercise and finally, how County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust intend to implement the proposals. The Scrutiny Committee have agreed to continue to be involved in the implementation phase of seizing the future and receive regular updates and reports from the Trust.
 - (b) **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for Darlington** – Members have received a joint presentation from Ken Ross, Head of Health Improvement, NHS Darlington and Jane Robinson, Assistant Director of Adult Social Care which provided some background information into the JSNA, the aims of JSNA and key messages. Members are pleased to note that the aim of JSNA is to tackle the problem of a lack of common understanding between the NHS and Local Authorities in setting targets to deal with the needs of the local population on an outcome focused basis. The JSNA will impact on tackling inequalities by taking into account data and information on inequities between the differing and overlapping communities in local areas and contribute to the statutory requirements in relation to equality audits. Members have noted the JNSA as a useful resource document to support health and well being planning and commissioning.
 - (c) **Transforming Social Care – Personalisation In Darlington** – Members were last updated on the progress of transforming social care in October 2008 and are pleased with the progress made since then. A Business Transformation Team has been recruited and indicators have been identified of what a transformed adult social care system would look like. Members were reminded that transformation would be achieved through effective partnership arrangements with key stakeholders. It was explained that the challenge for the Council and its partners is to transform the current model of social care to one that is driven by people directing their own support to meet their own identified social care outcomes. Members look forward to receiving future updates.
 - (d) **Transport to Health** – The Committee recently held a special meeting to discuss transport to health, following a number of concerns raised by members of the public during the seizing the future consultation. County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust, NHS County Durham,

Durham County Council Integrated Transport and the Borough Council's Passenger Transport all attended the meeting and gave presentations which explained the level of transport provided by the individual services. Representatives from GOLD, DAD and Age Concern also attended the meeting and had the opportunity to report any areas of concerns their organisations may have. Many of the queries raised were answered at the meeting and the main issue was lack of communication and awareness of the services available. It was a very successful meeting and Officers were able to make contacts with their equivalents, with the hope of future joined up working. I have decided to repeat the exercise next year and invite the organisations back to update us on the developments and progress made against the initiatives highlighted at the meeting.

- (e) **Safer Drinking – Safer Darlington: Darlington's Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2008 – 2011 Delivery Update** – At the last ordinary meeting we received an update on the delivery of the Safer Drinking – Safer Darlington, Darlington's Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2008 -2011. It was reported that an Implementation Group has been established to drive the Alcohol Strategy and a performance framework has been developed to monitor its progress. Particular reference was made to the North East Alcohol Office (Balance) which has funded a number of initiatives for 08-09, including a Brief Intervention training post for 12 months, an Alcohol Arrest Referral post, education and awareness campaigns, evaluation of the Community Alcohol Service, paramedic and Alcohol Arrest Referral services and expansion of Housing prevention and floating support services within the third sector (DISC, 700 Club and First Stop). Confirmation of further funding for 09-10, including a £50k uplift to £200k (and indications of a further £200k for 2010-11), will enable the piloting of a significant project for an NEAS Paramedic secondment to work alongside police in the Night Time Economy; and also, a County-wide Alcohol Management post, covering A & E. Members welcomed the Nightsafe Campaign winning a national award and are delighted that Nightsafe are continuing to host a number of alcohol awareness community road shows with Alpha Radio this summer, targeting young people and colleges. We are delighted with the immense amount of work that has been undertaken in a short space of time and congratulated the DAAT Joint Commissioning Manager and her team.
- (f) **Safe Guarding Adults in Darlington – Update Report** – Members have been updated on progress in respect of the development of systems and procedures to safeguard adults in Darlington. Information on safeguarding activity was highlighted in the report together with how short term resources have been allocated and jointly funded from the PCT to ensure progress can be made in the key areas. Members will receive a presentation on the outcome of the Serious Case Review on Victoria House at a special meeting in July 2009. The Committee are delighted that the Standards Committee had supported to their recommendation to make safeguarding adults training mandatory for all Members of Council. I was also particularly pleased to note that information was being made widely available on the Council's website about safeguarding adults, to raise awareness of reporting incidents.
- (g) **Cancer Screening Information** – Following on from the work being undertaken by Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee on Cancer Screening Services, the Committee recently received a report from a Consultant in Public Health, NHS

Darlington. It was reported that between 2003 and 2005, cancer incidence rates for males and females in Darlington were not significantly different from regional and national rates. The incidence rates of all cancers in Darlington are consistently higher for males than females. However, the incidence rates for men have decreased over time while rates for females in Darlington have risen and fallen. A review of cancer rates at ward level between 2001 and 2005 proved that incidence rates vary with the higher incidence of cancers in the most deprived wards in Darlington. Mortality rates also increased with deprivation levels. Information was also supplied with regards to breast, cervical and bowel cancer screening processes.

- (h) **Healthy Darlington Delivery Plan** – The Scrutiny Committee were pleased to receive the One Darlington Perfectly Placed: Healthy Darlington Themed Group – Delivery Plan 2008-2011. The Plan outlined performance against targets set for the short to long term for Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement Indicators. The Delivery Plan also highlighted the actions to be implemented by the Health Darlington Themed Group to deliver the Sustainable Community Strategy work strands.
- (i) **Performance Report 3rd Quarter 2008/09** – Members of the Committee considered a report which detailed information in respect of the five service plans for which this Committee is responsible for monitoring, those being; Health, Adult Social Care, Cultural Services, Supporting People and Public Protection. Members also considered those elements of the Sustainable Community Strategy, One Darlington: Perfectly Placed and the Local Area Agreement for which this Committee has responsibility for. As Chair, I feel that more training is required for Members on performance monitoring to ensure that we as Members scrutinise the services plans effectively and therefore, I have arranged a training session for all Members of the Committee to attend.
- (j) **Breastfeeding in Darlington** – We have received positive updates in respect of Breastfeeding in Darlington and the Breastfeeding Accreditation Scheme. Breastfeeding initiation rates and maintenance rates are poor overall across the North East and particularly poor in Darlington. Although, the breastfeeding rates are continuing to steadily rise in Darlington. NHS Darlington have increased the focus on breastfeeding by selecting improved initiation and maintenance rates as a “world class commissioning outcome”. This particular initiative is still very close to our Members’ hearts and we will continue to monitor the progress being made and offer our support when necessary.
- (k) **Joint work with Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – Tasting School Meals** – 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 has been considered by Cabinet.
- (l) **Older Peoples Strategy Review** – The review of the Older Peoples Strategy and is nearing completion and the climax of the Committees work is to host a talking together style event. The event is to be held on Tuesday 12th May 2009 in Central Hall at the Dolphin Centre, commencing at 2.00pm until 4.00pm. The aim of the event is to invite organisations who provide services/activities for older people across Darlington to attend to share information, to address duplication issues and to ask the general public

about the retirement services they would like. Following the event, conclusions will be drawn and a final report will be produced and forwarded to Cabinet for consideration.

- (m) **Annual Health Checks** – Work has been completed on this year’s Annual Health Check. At the April meeting of the Committee, Members agreed each Task and Finish Groups contribution to be submitted to each of the NHS Trusts relevant to Darlington. The initial feedback has been extremely positive from each Trust who are very appreciative of the Committee comments and look forward to working with Members during the 2009/10 process.
- (n) **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 cardiovascular disease screening in Teesside, improving sexual health services in Teesside and reviewed the evidence of Cancer screening across the Tees Valley. The Joint Committee has also responded to the Annual Health Check process for the South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust, Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust and North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust. The Joint Committee have also considered the Chief Executive of the Strategic Health Authority response to the NEAS Contact Centre Decision and are continuing discussions with the Trust on the process of implementation. The Joint Committee will also host a Tees Valley event as part of the consultation for the NEAS Foundation Trust status application. The Joint Committee have also supported in principle the formation a proactive Regional Scrutiny Committee and further discussions will be held in due course.
- (o) **Work Programme 2009/2010** – We have given consideration to the Work Programme of this Committee for the Municipal Year 2009/10 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) Healthy Darlington Themed Group – Tuesday 17th March 2009.
- (b) Age Healthy Planning meeting – Tuesday 31st March 2009.
- (c) Seizing the Future ‘Lessons learned’ workshop – Thursday 9th April 2009.
- (d) Implementation planning meeting for Accident & Emergency – Thursday 9th April 2009.
- (e) Meeting with Director of Corporate Strategies, Services and Relations – Thursday 9th April 2009.
- (f) Lead Members Briefing with Locality Director of Public Health and Assistant Directors Adults & Social Care – Wednesday 16th April 2009.
- (g) Meeting with LINKs – Tuesday 28th April 2009.

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