
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 lead Members of the Scrutiny Committee have been appointed to the Seizing the Future Delivery Oversight Board, along with colleagues from Durham County Council and other NHS Partners. The Board will continue to meet until the implementation of Seizing the Future is complete. The lead Members will brief the Scrutiny Committee at regular intervals.
 - (b) **Local Involvement Networks (LINKs)** – At a recent meeting of the Committee, Paul Bell, Vice Chair of the Local Involvement Network (LINK) gave a presentation on the Darlington Local Involvement Network (LINK) Annual Report for April, 2008 to March, 2009. The Annual Report gave the background to Darlington LINK which was initially set up in July 2008 and consists of a group of volunteers, individuals and organisations who have a mutual interest in ensuring that the patients and public have a voice in the delivery of health and social care services within the area. The Committee will continue to keep a watching brief on the work of the LINK and offer support and assistance where necessary.
 - (c) **Service Planning 2009/13** – We received an introduction to the four service plans for which this Scrutiny is responsible for providing challenge and a report on the 4th Quarter 2008/09 performance. Along with the service plans this Scrutiny also have responsibility to scrutinise elements of the Sustainable Community Strategy : One Darlington : Perfectly Place and the Local Area Agreement to note overall performance and reasons for underperformance and to undertake Task and Finish Reviews into areas of service where the Committee feel it is necessary.
 - (d) **Healthy Darlington Themed Group** – The Locality Director of Public Health, as Chair of the Healthy Darlington Theme Group gave Members a verbal update from the Healthy Darlington Group and the Healthy Darlington Business Group. The health priorities of the Themed Group being to narrow the gap in life expectancy, create improved access to sports and leisure, create healthy work places, tackle obesity in young people, mental health issues and planning for an ageing population. The Locality Director of Public Health also advised Members that she will be presenting future reports to this Scrutiny on some of the health priorities.
 - (e) **Annual Operational Plan 2009/2010** –The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Director Planning and Involvement, NHS County Durham on the Annual Operational Plan 2009/10 and received a presentation thereon. Members discussed the Plan which sets out the objectives, strategic initiatives, demand plan assumptions and

required enabling activities for NHS County Durham and NHS Darlington and outlines the approach to investment planning required to ensure delivery and value for money. The Annual Operational Plan also outlines the key priorities which aim to assist delivery of the greatest health gain for local people and hence deliver best value for money for local tax payers.

- (f) **Narrowing the Gaps** – We received two reports concerning narrowing the gaps; one detailing the initiatives focused on raising awareness of cancer and cancer services (including screening) and promoting health seeking behaviour, the second report detailing the actions required to tackle coronary heart disease through both risk factor identification and intervention and ensuring fair access to effective treatment for established diseases and also reported on the large scale actions required to narrow the gap. We have agreed that in particular more work needs to be done on the social marketing around men’s health issues and early intervention in relation to cancer services. Particular reference was also made to the service specification for assessment and management of cardiovascular disease (including heart disease and stroke) in Darlington that has been distributed to all General Practitioners (GP’s).
- (g) **Supporting People Commissioning Strategy** – Members were updated on the Commissioning Strategy which sets out a timetable by which services for each client group will be subject to discussions around future provision, in light of the reduction of Darlington’s Supporting People Grant allocation. Details were provided of reviews that have been undertaken since the commencement of the Strategy of services for ex-offenders and those at risk of offending, Older People with Support Needs, People with a Learning Disability, Homeless Services and Services for Young Parents. Consultation with stakeholders which has been undertaken as part of the Commissioning Strategy, has been undertaken specifically with a view to identifying joint commissioning and joint funding opportunities.
- (h) **Older People’s Strategy** – We have now completed our Review of the Older People’s Strategy and have agreed to forward the recommendations to Cabinet. The climax to the review was the Age Healthy event which the Committee hosted in the Dolphin Centre. The aim of the event was to promote the activities available to older people living in Darlington and to encourage organisations to join up services where possible and work more closely together. This was also an excellent opportunity for organisations to share best practice and encourage people to remain active as they approach retirement and old age. There were a number of information stalls and several demonstrations throughout the afternoon. The event was extremely popular and well attended it was a fun afternoon for everyone. People were able to gather information from the stalls or watch the demonstrations
- (i) **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) Transport to Health Briefing – Thursday 7th May 2009.

- (b) Age Healthy Event – Tuesday 12th May 2009.
- (c) NHS Briefing – Wednesday 13th May 2009.
- (d) Transport to Health Briefing – Friday 22nd May 2009.
- (e) Healthy Darlington Themed Group – Tuesday 2nd June 2009.

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