
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 continue to attend the Seizing the Future Delivery Oversight Board, along with colleagues from Durham County Council and other NHS Partners and brief the Scrutiny Committee at regular intervals. At the next meeting of the Board, Members will receive a detailed overview of the implemented changes which will be in place by 1st October 2009, at Darlington Memorial Hospital.
 - (b) **Special Meeting at Bishop Auckland General Hospital** – The Special Scrutiny Committee meeting in July 2009 was held in Bishop Auckland General Hospital. On the rising of the meeting, Members were given the opportunity to have a tour of the current facilities available at the hospital, before the implementation of the changes under Seizing the Future. Members were impressed by the current amenities and looked forward to seeing further improvements in the near future.
 - (c) **Healthier Lives For Children And Young People In County Durham And Darlington – Annual Report Of The Director Of Public Health 2008/09** – Members have received a briefing from the Locality Director of Public Health and a Public Health Register about key and current concerns regarding the health and wellbeing of children and young people as detailed in the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2008/09. Particular reference was made to the following headlines: that 23.7% of children in Darlington and County Durham live in poverty; that teenage pregnancy continues to be of concern; that breast feeding initiation in Darlington (57.9%) is poor compared to the England average of an estimated 77%; that educational achievement is continuing to improve in Darlington at 69.2% compared with the England rate of 65.3%. It is Members intention to investigate this report in more detail with the possibility of identifying areas for Review, over the coming year.
 - (d) **Older Persons Mental Health Strategy** – Members have recently received assurance on the work being undertaken in respect of the Older Persons Mental Health Strategy (OPMH). The Strategy proposes a joint social and healthcare delivery of service in Darlington by developing a model that reflected the key components of a modern OPMH service as set out in 'Everybody's Business' (2005). In addition, the recent publication of the National Dementia Strategy: Living Well with Dementia will provide also a framework for the delivery of better services for people suffering from dementia. Members welcomed the Strategy and have agreed to hold a special meeting in March for focus solely on dementia to assist with raising awareness of the condition.

- (e) **Special Meeting – Serious Case Review** – The Committee held a special meeting in August to consider the outcome of the Serious Case Review. As a result the Committee will receive an update report at the October meeting.
- (f) **Adult Social Care Compliments, Comments, Suggestions And Complaints Procedure And Annual Report 2008/2009** – It was reported that total feedback to Adult Social Care has increased slightly from last year to this. Members were pleased to note that the number of complaints received within Adult Social Care Services has reduced since last years report and the total number of compliments has risen, with Occupational Therapy receiving the most compliments. Members raised concerns about assessment delays and hoped that the implementation of the new procedure would improve the current practice.
- (g) **World Class Commissioning** – At a recent Committee meeting, Members received a briefing on world class commissioning from the Assistant Director, Planning and Involvement, NHS County Durham. Effective world class commissioning, maximises benefits for the local population within the resources available and assists in reducing health inequalities and improving the overall health of the population. Members will receive a similar presentation to enhance our understanding of Specialised Commissioning at the October meeting.
- (h) **Infection Control Programme** – Members received assurance from the Lead Infection Prevention and Control Nurse about the progress NHS Darlington are making against the Infection Control Programme to reduce MRSA bacteraemia and Clostridium Difficile along with all other avoidable HCAI. Members welcomed the report and were delighted to learn that the Infection Control Team are providing advice to care homes and also cold calling.
- (i) **Draft Sports Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategies** – Members of the Committee were given an opportunity to comment of the draft Sports Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategies as part of the consultation process. Members welcomed the Strategies and are keen that the momentum is not lost and that implementation commences as soon as possible to achieve both short term and long term goals. Members are keen that schools are encouraged to allow the use of their facilities to benefit the community and that greater use of rugby pitches out of season is explored.
- (j) **Older People’s Strategy** – Our final report on the Review of the Older People’s Strategy was recently considered by Cabinet. As Chair I presented the report and was pleased with the positive feedback received. Cabinet agreed that the final recommendations of the Health and Well Being Scrutiny Committee, as detailed in the final report, be accepted and endorsed.
- (k) **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, the Chair of the Committee has attended various briefings with Officers.

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