
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.
 - (b) **Stroke Services** – The Committee have held a special meeting dedicated to Stroke Services provision at Darlington Memorial Hospital. The Chief Executive from County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust and senior Clinicians delivered a PowerPoint presentation to Councillors and members of the public. This meeting has been arranged for some time and the issue of changes to stroke services provision has been on this Committees Work Programme since November 2009. The Chief Executive reassured everyone present that the Trust is committed to providing high quality stroke services across all three Trust sites, including Darlington Memorial Hospital (DMH) and that there are no plans to close the Stroke Unit. He advised that there are immediate pressures that the Trust are facing due to an unexpected departure of a stroke physician, two stroke physicians retiring in October 2010, difficulties in recruiting and contingency measures. Contingency plans are in place to keep both Acute Stroke Units at Darlington and University Hospital North Durham in place for the foreseeable future. There is also a Regional Cardiovascular Network Review on going which is being led by stroke physicians across the North East Region, which will impact on future stroke provision. By the end of February 2010 all Trusts will be required to respond to the review with proposals of how they would provide stroke services 24 hour 7 days a week, while achieving all local and national core standards. The Trust's approach is to develop 24 hours 7 days a week service on two sites (DMH and UHND) dependent on the ability of recruiting up to six consultant stroke physicians. The Chief Executive reassured Members that the Committee would be kept fully involved and informed if discussions are held regarding proposals to change stroke services provision. The Committee has agreed to hold an open meeting with representatives from all NHS Trust and invite interested parties such as Age Concern, GOLD, LINKs, etc to discuss this issue in more detail after the Trust has fed its proposals into the regional review.
 - (c) **Darlington Compact** – Darlington Compact is an agreement between the public and third sectors about how to work together effectively to deliver the best possible services and outcomes for Darlington. The Compact is about enabling the third sector to play to its full potential in the life of the community, and thus maximise the resources available to deliver improved outcomes. The preparation of the draft Compact has been led by eVOLution and the Council, with the regular participation of

representatives from other public and third sector partners. Members of the Scrutiny Committee have fed their comments into the process.

- (d) **Transforming Social Care – Personalisation in Darlington** – Members have received an update on the National agenda to transform adult social care and on local progress made. Members are satisfied that work to progress the transformation of adult social care is underway and on target to meet the milestones to transformation identified by Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and the Local Government Association. The Department of Health has made available a Social Care Reform Grant with guidance to support the move to personalisation. Darlington Borough Council has committed to transforming adult social care to a model, which maximises an individual's choice and control and optimises the use of universal services while ensuring that those who need safeguarding are given the support that they need to live their lives safely. Members have expressed an interest in undertaking a piece of work in relation to the issues of transformation of social care and have established a Task and Finish Review Group. A meeting with Officers has been held and work will commence imminently.
- (e) **Health Improvement Strategy** – The Locality Director of Public Health, NHS Darlington presented the Health Improvement Strategy to Members reminding them that the Strategy is driven by the Council's Corporate Management Team. Specific attention was drawn to the employees' Health and Well Being Survey which was carried out in February 2009 and approximately 35% of employees responded. The report also detailed the programme of workshops for elected Members and Officers to assist with developing an understanding of key public health concepts and how they can be applied to the health inequalities agenda. The submitted report also appended the latest Health Profile for Darlington 2009.
- (f) **Framework for Quality Accounts** – The Director of Planning and Performance, Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust briefed Members on Quality Accounts and its associated framework. Trust Boards are encouraged to assess quality across all services and strive to continuously improve. It is used as a vehicle to make information on quality available to the general public and service users which improves public accountability. The national framework of Quality Accounts was out for consultation which ended on 10 December 2009. The framework applies to all providers of NHS healthcare services and is rolled out on a phased basis, it is to that end that the first year will not include Primary Care or Community Services. Individual Trust Boards will have to declare their accountability of the content of the quality accounts and include identified priorities for improvement, review of quality performance and indicators of quality. Foundation Trusts will be required to present Quality Accounts as part of their Annual Report and Accounts. They will also require feedback from stakeholders, which will include this Scrutiny Committee.
- (g) **NHS Constitution** – The Director of Partnerships and Services, NHS County Durham, David Gallagher briefed Members on the recently launched consultation on The NHS Constitution: A consultation on new patient rights. Mr Gallagher encouraged the Committee to get involved and feedback their comments ahead of the deadline of February 2010. As a result Members will consider a response to the consultation in the form of a Task and Finish Review Group as undertaken previously.

- (h) **Service Inspection of Adult Social Care** – Lead Members of the Committee have attended a meeting with the Assistant Director - Adult Social Care and Housing in respect of the recent Service Inspection of Adult Social Care. Members have agreed to establish a Task and Finish Group to scrutinise the findings in further detail.
- (i) **Tendering for Community Health Services** - The Director of Partnerships and Services, NHS County Durham briefed the Committee on the recent press article regarding NHS County Durham giving notice on the community health care contract. He explained that this is a necessary step in demonstrating fairness and a clear separation between provider and commissioner. This move is in accordance with national policy direction including Transforming Community Services, Collaboration and Competition and World Class Commissioning. There is a national policy that NHS organisations should be preferred providers but there is a need to ensure that best value for money is obtained. There are no views at the moment that the contract would go to an independent sector provider. There was hope that the current provider, County Durham and Darlington Community Health Services, will demonstrate that they can provide the quality and value for money being sought.
- (j) **Performance Report 2nd Quarter 2009/10** – Members of the Committee considered a report which detailed information in respect of the four service plans for which the Committee is responsible for monitoring, those being Health Improvement, Adult Social Care, Supporting People and Public Protection. The report also asked Members to scrutinise those elements of the Sustainable Community Strategy, One Darlington: Perfectly Placed and the Local Area Agreement for which the Health & Well-Being Scrutiny Committee have responsibility for.
- (k) **Community Equipment Services** – Members have been updated on the Home Equipment Loans Service (HELs) and are unhappy to discover that not much progress has been made since the last update report received in March 2009. Members noted that 15 items would no longer be purchased and that these items would only be available on a returns basis and that this would create a waiting for those items. There would be less equipment in circulation to be shared between the four organisations who currently share the HELs services and the costs of equipment to Darlington Adult Social Care may subsequently increase, this will be monitored on a fortnightly basis. There has been a project initiated by NHS County Durham Corporate Improvement Team to review the service specification for Home Equipment Loans and Wheelchair Services. This is a 12 week project involving commissioners, health care professionals, requisitioners and service users, starting November 2009 and finishing February 2010. Members have requested input into the project and have agreed to resurrect the original piece of work undertaken by this Committee concerning Home Equipment Loans Services in 2002/03 and scrutinise whether the recommendations have been achieved over the past six years.
- (l) **Alcohol Harm Reduction In Darlington** – The DAAT Joint Commissioning Unit Manager, NHS Darlington updated Members on the progress in implementing the Darlington Alcohol Harm reduction Strategy (2008 – 2011). It was reported that in November (10th-13th) 2009 a team from the Department of Health, the Alcohol Harm Reduction Support Team (NST) visited Darlington to review the delivery of the local

strategy and identify potential support for the local partnerships in achieving the key targets. Members were pleased to note that the feedback from the NST visit was highly positive and a number of strengths were identified, along with good/innovative practice. The key areas of action to progress are largely underway, having been previously identified by partners via the Alcohol Strategy Implementation Group. Particular reference was made to the reported figures that Darlington has the highest rate in the Country for hospital admissions for young people for alcohol related incidents. Ms Martin reported that a number of schemes are in place to try and address this issue including Summer Nights, Operation Staysafe and the introduction of the pilot Paramedic Project. Members congratulated Ms Martin and all members of her team for their excellent work.

- (m) **Teenage Pregnancy Prevention and Support** – Members have received an update and information regarding the Refresh Structure and Priority Action Planning October 09 – March 2010 relating to teenage pregnancy. It was reported Darlington has achieved a significantly higher decrease in under 18 conceptions than the North East average and a higher decrease than the England average. Local intelligence over the first three quarters of 2008 which is calculated using a different formula to the ONS (patient registered population figures) identifies that Darlington is experiencing a downward trend in under 18 conceptions. However intelligence identifies that there is a risk that by quarter 4 Darlington's rates 2008 will have increased. Members expressed concern about the figures in quarter 4 rising and hoped that it was only a blip in the trend as the figures in the first three quarter have steadily reduced.
 - (n) **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