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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) **‘Liberating the NHS’ White Paper Task and Finish Group** – The Committee has re-established its Task and Finish Group to respond to the further consultations Liberating the NHS: An information revolution and Liberating the NHS: Greater choice and control.
  - (b) **North East Region Health Scrutiny – Health needs of ex service personnel** – Councillor Newall and I have (between us) attended the final meetings of the workstream. We have inputted into the final report and supported the recommendations which were put forward to the Project Board. I attended the meeting of the Project Board when all three workstreams came together and presented their findings. The final report will be considered by all 12 individual Overview and Scrutiny Committees and then forwarded to the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS). This piece of work has been extremely interesting and very timely. We hope that the Region will fully support this project and together make a difference to supporting the ex-service personnel living in the North East Region.
  - (c) **Personalised Budgets** – We have established a Task and Finish Review Group to consider personalised budgets and work has commenced. At our first meeting we discussed with Officers personal budgets and considered best practice from Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council and Hartlepool Borough Council. Our second was a focus group session with service users and carers which provided us with an opportunity of discussing the benefits, difficulties and challenges of personalised budgets. Our last meeting with Officers helped us clarify the monitoring process and helped us to formulate our recommendations. Our final report will be considered at our February meeting before it is submitted to Cabinet. We have enjoyed this piece of work and hope that our recommendations will benefits service users and carers.
  - (d) **Community Equipment Services** – Members have continued to monitor the progress of the community equipment services over the years and are delighted to note that the performance target D54, which is delivery within seven days, has consistently been met in the first six months of 2010-11. Although, we acknowledge that there are still two outstanding issues that have not been addressed in the current specification, equipment is not fitted on delivery and delays in picking up equipment after usage. Work is continuing by Officers in the integration and transformation of community equipment and we hope to continue to see improvements and efficiencies to the service.
  - (e) **Age UK Day Care Service Review for Older People** – It has been explained at our recent meeting that the current Council contracts are with one main provider of day care which is Age UK Darlington. An earlier decision was made to review the current service contracts for Day Care and the Home Bathing service due to the initial period

of contracts ending on the 31st March 2011, the Primary Care Trust (PCT) having signalled an intention to end the funding of their element of the Home Bathing service on 1st April 2011, as part of their Quality Innovation Productivity and Prevention (QIPP) efficiencies and the impact of the Fairer Contributions Policy will mean the bathing service will no longer be a subsidised service. The review has concluded that the Council anticipated a significant shift in demand, away from a traditional model of provision and a greater focus on personalisation, meeting diverse needs, physical and mental stimulation, and services that are not focussed on a specific building or location. This transition will be driven, by individual users and carers and commissioners have a key role in assisting the market to develop, and social care assessors, brokers, and providers all have a key role in helping individuals see the potential to move towards different ways of meeting their identified outcomes.

- (f) **Mental Health Services For Older People In Darlington And South Durham – Consultation On Proposed Service Changes** – We have been consulted on the proposed changes to inpatient beds for mental health services for older people in Darlington and South Durham. There is a 14-week consultation period which closes on 27th February 2011. The consultation documents sets out five options for consideration, four of which involve reconfiguring inpatients beds across South Durham and Darlington which will result in 15 fewer assessment and treatment beds. These options relate to two assessment and treatment wards at Auckland Park in Bishop Auckland, one assessment and one treatment ward at West Park, in Darlington and one challenging behaviour ward at Sedgefield. The proposed service changes will also mean that a specialist centre for challenging behaviour inpatient services could be provided at Auckland Park (they are currently split between Bishop Auckland and Sedgefield). The number of challenging behaviour beds will not be reduced. Patients and families have said that they would prefer inpatient wards where people with functional illness such as depression, psychosis and anxiety be separate to people with organic illnesses such as dementia, and these views have be considered within the proposals. We welcome the separation between organic illness and functional illness and accept the evidence from patients and carers about separating the very different illnesses. I have encouraged Members of the Committee to attend the public consultation meetings in Darlington on 11th and 18th January 2011 and have suggested that a meeting be held to formulate the Committee response to the consultation, once views of Darlington residents could be taken in to account.
- (g) **Annual Report of the Director of Public Health for 2010: Keeping Older People Healthy in County Durham and Darlington** – Our Director of Public Health has briefly introduced us to the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health for 2010: Keeping Older People Healthy in County Durham and Darlington. The report continues County Durham and Darlington’s tradition of sharing information with colleagues in the wider community. This improves communication with partners and provides an in depth understanding of how County Durham and Darlington are addressing issues for older people. Older people will ultimately benefit from this increased focus on their needs and the involvement of the third sector in this report will improve engagement with and involvement of the older population. Members will receive a full presentation on the Annual Report at our February meeting.
- (h) **Sport and Physical Activity Strategy Update** – The Head of Cultural Services updated Members on the excellent work that has been undertaken in relation to the Sports and Physical Activity Strategy, in continuing with significant achievements

- (i) **Performance Report 2nd Quarter 2010/11** – Members have revisited the three service plans for which the Committee is responsible for monitoring, i.e. Health Improvement, Adult Social Care, Supporting People and Public Protection, in addition improving health is included in the Planning, Performance and Partnerships service plans and for scrutinising those elements of the Sustainable Community Strategy, One Darlington: Perfectly Placed and the Local Area Agreement. Overall, aggregated performance of the three service plans is on target which also applies to two of the individual service plans (Public Protection and Supporting People) with Adult Social Care above target. The Adult Social Care service plan has six indicators below target, six above target and seven on target with data unavailable for 12. The Public Protection service plan contains 16 indicators with one below target, ten on target and five not available. The third service plan is Supporting People showing performance with two indicators on target, one below and data unavailable for three.
- (j) **Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee** – Councillor Newall attended the to recent meeting of the Joint Committee where the meeting received a presentation on the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and Learning Disability Short Breaks Services for Tees from Tees, Esk and Wear valley NHS Foundation Trust and Electronic Patient Report Form Project from North East Ambulance Services NHS Foundation Trust. Both presentations were extremely interesting and we look forward to the electronic patient report form being rolled out across Darlington and County Durham.
- (k) **Work Programme 2010/2011** – We have given consideration to the Work Programme of this Committee for the Municipal Year 2010/11 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 various briefings with Officers.

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