
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) **Children's Health** – We hosted a joint meeting with the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 24th January 2011 to discuss the cross cutting issue of children's health. Members of both Committees had the benefit of scrutinising with NHS professionals children's health issues such as tobacco control; child obesity and psychical activity; teenage conceptions; alcohol and drug misuse; paediatric pathway - acute, paediatric hospital pathway – young peoples alcohol misuse; and services for disabled children. The meeting was very successful and we hope to hold a similar meeting next year.
 - (b) **Medium Term Financial Plan – We held a special meeting to give further** consideration to the draft Medium-Term Financial Plan following the feedback received on initial proposals released in November 2010 and the Local Government Finance Settlement received in December 2010. We received an overview of the financial position, Government grants and the pressures facing the Council over the next few years. Members scrutinised the impact of the proposals relevant to this Scrutiny Committee and forwarded recommendations to a special meeting of Resources Scrutiny Committee held on 7th February, 2011.
 - (c) **North East Health Scrutiny** – The Final report of the North East Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Regional Review of the Health of the Ex-Service Community has been presented and welcomed by this Committee. As I have regularly reported to Council; myself and Councillor Newall have been involved in this review, which has examined the physical, mental and broader health needs of ex-servicemen and women, their families and communities, how they are being assessed and their needs met across the range of agencies at regional and local level, and how far ex-service personnel and their families are aware of the support available to them. We are delighted with the efforts put into producing such a thorough report. The Scrutiny review represents the culmination of a year of intensive work by the Members and Officers of the North East Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee working in close partnership with a wide range of individuals and agencies. The North East Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed its final report on 14th January, 2011. It makes 47 recommendations to a wide range of organisations, including local authorities. The North East Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be monitoring and reviewing the implementation of progress against the recommendations on a six-monthly basis, and, to assist with this, an Action Plan has been developed. I was pleased to present this report to Cabinet for their endorsement on 8th March 2011.
 - (d) **Healthy Darlington Themed Group** – I attended the recent Healthy Darlington Themed Group meeting and we received an update at our last ordinary Committee meeting. The Healthy Darlington Themed Group has received the performance report

for Quarter 2 2010/11 and special areas for discussion included the NI 057 and NI 112. The full Healthy Darlington Delivery Plan is overall on target for all actions to be completed by March 2011. The Group also received a presentation on Healthy People, Healthy Lives: Our Strategy for Public Health in England and the consultation questions have been circulated. The Healthy Darlington group members have been invited to contribute to the development of the revised Local Transport Plan. Links to health are clear and the potential to improve health should be highlighted.

- (e) **Annual Report of the Director of Public Health for 2010: Keeping Older People Healthy in County Durham and Darlington** – A Locum Consultant in Public Health Medicine delivered a presentation in respect of the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health for 2010: Keeping Older People Healthy in County Durham and Darlington. The report continues Public Health 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 an 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. We have recommended the Director of Public Health deliver a presentation to Monitoring and Co-ordination in respect of carrying out a cross cutting Scrutiny Review in relation to this year's Annual Report.
- (f) **Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England** – We have received a brief overview of the latest White Paper consultation on Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England. On behalf of our Director of Public Health the Public Health Specialist and Immunisation and Vaccination Coordinator advised that the White Paper sets out the Government's long-term vision for the future of public health in England. The aim is to create a "wellness" service (Public Health England) and to strengthen both national and local leadership. It outlines a radical shift in the way public health challenges are tackled. The report we considered highlighted a summary of the proposals which include the establishment of Public Health England, proposed ring – fencing of public health funds, a new role for local government in public health, the establishment of a health premium, an extended role for Directors of Public Health, establishment of Health and Wellbeing Boards, the Health and Social Care Bill, Public Health outcomes framework, Health and Wellbeing throughout life and Making it Happen – Consultation and Transition. We have established a standing White Paper Task and Finish Review Group who will respond to the White Paper on behalf of the Committee ahead of the consultation closing date of 31st March 2011.
- (g) **Intermediate Care Strategy Consultation** – As part of the consultation on the Intermediate Care Strategy we received a report informing us on the progress being made towards a Joint Intermediate Care Strategy based on a report to the NHS County Durham and Darlington Primary Care Trust (NHSCDD). The proposal for Intermediate Care Plus, as a strategic commissioning intention and direction of travel, was outlined for our comments. We also considered the joint action plan developed to implement the draft strategy in 2010. This is under review in light of the Intermediate Care Plus approach and changes to funding streams.
- (h) **Supported Living For People With A Learning Disability** – We have received an update on Adult Social Care's proposal to review its current in house supported living

service for people with a learning disability. The review will include a focus on current management arrangements, maximising current usage and a cost benefit analysis of outsourcing the service. Adult Social Care in partnership with Northgate Public Services intends to undertake a review of the current services. Members of this Committee have requested a further report to be submitted outlining the proposals following the outcome of the review and consultation with service users and stakeholders.

- (i) **Alcohol Related Hospital Admissions Of Under 18 Year Olds Task And Finish Review Group** – I am delighted to report the positive progress that has made since we undertook our review of alcohol related hospital admissions of under 18 year olds. A Consultant in Public Health and Children and the Young People’s Manager of Darlington Drug and Alcohol Action Team jointly reported that significant progress has been made against our recommendations. Positive outcomes included that the Social norms work in schools, which helps prevent substance misuse, is expanding to cover other areas such as smoking, sexual health and bullying and we have a growing evidence base to support the fact that this approach is working well locally; the range of multi-agency projects are in place to divert young people and prevent unnecessary admissions; the pathway from Darlington Memorial Hospital (DMH) to community treatment (SWITCH) for young people who misuse alcohol is now in place; the hospital admissions observation unit is now operational in DMH and the number of admissions continues to drop as predicted and the national ranking has improved. Members noted that further work has been undertaken in respect of a new pharmacy pilot which is operating. The pilot offers information and brief advice around alcohol consumption to women accessing emergency contraception, in keeping with the new public health white paper. Members welcomed the findings of some recent analysis of emergency admission in to Darlington Memorial Hospital, which showed that none of the ‘frequent flyer’ admissions involved young people aged under 18 years. We look forward to a further report in due course to consider even more good progress.
- (j) **White Paper Task and Finish Review Group** – Our standing White Paper Task and Finish Review Group has responded to another Department of Health consultation. We responded to ‘Liberating the NHS: An Information Revolution’ and ‘Liberating the NHS: Greater Choice and Control’, following a Task and Finish Review Group meeting on 5th January, 2011, we received a briefing from the Head of Communications and Public Relations, NHS County Durham and Darlington on the consultations. We supported the proposals in both consultations and submitted our response ahead of the close on consultation on 14th January, 2011.
- (k) **Personal Budgets Task and Finish Review Group** – We have approved that final report of the Personal Budgets Task and Finish Review Group, which was established by this Committee. The Group have explored and scrutinised how the Council has piloted personal budgets and worked with other Local Authorities to establish best practice. Members of the Task and Finish Group have done this by considering best practice from other Local Authorities across the Country; meeting with people who have tested personal budgets and who currently receive a personal budget in Darlington; and exploring the arrangements for monitoring how people spend their personal budgets and whether money is spent appropriate to need. The Task and Finish Review Group met formally on a number of occasions to undertake its formal investigations and to collate its evidence and compile the final report. On Behalf of the Group, I presented our findings to Cabinet on 8th March 2011.

- (l) **Quality Accounts Task and Finish Review Group** – We have met with Directors from Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust and discussed Quality Accounts for 2010/2011 and 2011/12. Members of the Committee responded briefly to last years Quality Accounts and have received performance progress against those priorities. We have also received a summary of the changes of guidance in respect of Quality Accounts. Directors also informed Members of the priorities for 2011/12 and discussed the process of identification, which Members did engage with. The comments and feedback will be submitted by Officers on behalf of the Committee.
 - (m) **Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee** – We have been regularly attending meetings of the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee. At the recent meeting, I attended we received an update in seasonal flu across Tees Valley (Darlington members have been briefed locally); progress on the out of hours care service redesign being undertaken by NHS Tees and progress on the sexual health service redesign being undertaken by NHS Tees.
 - (n) **Work Programme 2010/2011** – We have given consideration to the Work Programme of this Committee for the remainder of 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, the Chair of the Committee has attended various briefings with Officers.

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