
OVERVIEW OF HEALTH AND PARTNERSHIP SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Health and Partnership Scrutiny Committee has undertaken:-
 - (a) **Darlington Darzi Practice** – Members of the Committee established a Task and Finish Review Group to respond to the consultation in respect of the Darlington Darzi Practice Service Review. We worked closely with Darlington Link and gathered evidence to submit and fully informed response to the consultation. As a result of thorough scrutiny investigations the Task and Finish Review Group unanimously agreed and resolved, that the current service should be re-commissioned (current contract extended) to allow for the impending changes to the relocation of urgent care services take place and to ensure that there is continuity of service for patients. NHS County Durham and Darlington Board met in early September and it took the decision to decommission the existing service from 31st March 2013. This means that the patient list will be dispersed to other GP Practices in the area, and that the walk-in service for essential primary medical care currently provided by the Darzi Practice will not be available. Members of the Committee are disappointed with the decision and have written to the Chief Executive expressing their concerns.
 - (b) **Public Health Funding Allocation** – Our Scrutiny Committee has supported the response submitted by Darlington Borough Council and North East Regional Joint Health Scrutiny Committee in respect of the Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Update on Public Health Funding Consultation, as we felt strongly that the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA) Formula Consultation proposed formula would have an adverse impact on the public health funds for Darlington. The Directors of Public Health across the North East have suggested an alternative formula which would see maintenance of the current public health allocation and we are supportive of this.
 - (c) **Consultation Task and Finish Group** – Following the establishment of the Consultation Task and Finish Review Group, the Group has met on two occasions to respond to the Department for Health’s proposals Liberating the NHS: No Decision about me, without me and the NHS Tees and NHS County Durham and Darlington’s consultation on Dental Anxiety Management and Sedation Service for NHS Tees and County Durham and Darlington. As Members of the Scrutiny Committee we feel that it is important to respond to consultations to submit the views of our residents.
 - (d) **Foundation Trusts Quality Accounts** – We have agreed that this year this Scrutiny Committee will be more involved at an early stage, with local Foundation Trusts Quality Accounts to enable us to have a better understanding and knowledge of performance when asked to submit a commentary on the Quality Accounts at the end of the Municipal Year 2012/13. It is to that end that we have committed to attending the Stakeholder events hosted by Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) and have established a Working Group with members of Darlington Link to

receive quarterly performance reports from County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust.

- (e) **Partnerships in Darlington** – We have recently received a presentation from the Assistant Director of Development and Commissioning informing us of Partnerships arrangements in Darlington and specifically focussed on Darlington Partnership. We found the presentation useful but some Members queried the effectiveness of Darlington Partnership and its successes. We have asked for a further report to be brought to Committee’s next meeting describing two tangible positive examples of how Darlington Partnership has worked and made a difference to Darlington residents.
- (f) **One Darlington: Perfectly Placed Delivery Strategy for Improved Well Being** – We have recently received a report considering the draft One Darlington: Perfectly Placed Delivery Strategy for Improved Well Being. We understand that the Health and Social Care Act 2012 requires Local Authorities through Health and Well Being Boards to prepare a Health and Well Being Strategy based on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. It also provides the power for Health and Well Being Boards to look more broadly than health and social care provision and to consider the wider determinants of health including housing, employment, education, skills, leisure and the environment. In Darlington, there has been a focus on the wider interpretation of health in the development of the Strategy which continues the vision and approach adopted within the previous Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). The Strategy, which is tailored to adhere to draft guidance issued by the Department of Health, continues the branding of the SCS and its two priorities. Given the nature of this document we have agreed to hold a separate briefing to enable us to further scrutinise the document in more detail.
- (g) **Emergency Department/Urgent Care Integration and Closure of Doctor Piper House Urgent Care Centre overnight provision** – We have received a briefing from the Programme Director NHS 111 Service North East (Deputy Director Unplanned Care) NHS County Durham and Darlington outlining the current position. We are pleased that the Business Case for the Integration of Urgent Care and Emergency Department is progressing and is in the process of being approved by the Shadow Clinical Commissioning Groups and Trust Boards. We have noted that the closure of Dr Piper House Urgent Care Centre overnight services appears to have been a success. As a full risk assessment was carried out and all actions implemented prior to the change and it was felt there that was little impact on patients as walk in activity is very low.
- (h) **County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust Clinical Strategy and Vision** – We are continuing our work with the Trust of scrutinising individual work streams within the Clinical Strategy. Due to the above we have agreed that Urgent Care Centre and Accident and Emergency/Urgent Care Task and Finish Group under the umbrella of the Clinical Strategy work be disbanded and replaced by an Urgent Care Task and Finish Review Group to involve all Members of the Committee. The other four Task and Finish Groups are continuing to make good progress. Members have been fully engaged with the process and this has only enhanced relationships with County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust.

- (i) **Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee** – As Chair I have continued to meet with Officers for organisations across the Tees Valley to gain an understanding of the area, health needs and service provision. The most recent meeting considered a briefing from NHS Tees and County Durham and Darlington on the County Durham and Tees Valley Acute Services Quality Legacy Project and Overview of Prosthetics Services across the Tees Valley. We also received feedback from the consultation regarding Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services Learning Disabilities Short Break Services for Teesside.
- (j) **North East Regional Joint Health Scrutiny Committee** – The Joint Committee met during recess and received an extremely detailed presentation from Professor Peter Kelly in respect of the Public Health Funding Proposed Formula. We also received initial presentations in respect of the expansion of Radiotherapy Services and Adult Congenital Heart Disease. The Joint Committee will keep a watching brief on these issues and respond to any consultations that occur as a result of changes.
- (k) **Work Programme 2012/13** –We have given consideration to the Work Programme for this Committee for the Municipal Year 2012/13 and possible review topics and in doing so, we have taken into account the reduced resources available and ensured that, in recommending our work programme to Monitoring and Co-ordination Group, that any work we undertake will have demonstrable outcomes and contribute to the work of the Council and its strategic aims and objectives.

Councillor Wendy Newall

Chair of the Health and Partnership Scrutiny Committee