
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.

Darlington Darzi Practice

2. Members have recently met with Officers from the Group and welcomed the Communications and Engagement Plan and we will continue to meet regularly to be involved in the engagement process and seek assurances on our concerns. We look forward to the piece of work being completed in respect of availability of GP appointments and will scrutinise that in due course.

Partnerships Briefing

3. We have received a briefing with the Assistant Director, Development and Commissioning, concerning the Welfare Rights Unit, the formulation of Societate progress with Health Watch procurement, progress of the Veterans Networking Event and an update on the Long Term Conditions Collaboration.

Alcohol Update

4. We have recently received an update from the Darlington Drug and Alcohol Action Team Manager on the progress made during the period of the Safer Drinking – Safer Darlington Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2008-2011 and the Next Steps refresh of the Strategy for 2012 - 2015. We also received reassurance of the implementation of the recently commissioned integrated adult drug and alcohol Connected Recovery treatment service; Social Norms findings; Darlington's Alcohol Awareness Week activities and campaigns; local implications around Minimum Unit Pricing; and other forthcoming national consultations. Members are interested in the key challenges for the future of tackling alcohol related harm, and protecting investment locally in the new landscape of Public Health in the Local Authority; the Health and Well-being Board; the implementation of the Clinical Commissioning Group and decreasing resources.

County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust Quality Accounts

5. We have established a Working Group with members of Darlington LINK to receive quarterly performance reports from County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust. The Working Group's first meeting was held on 19 July 2012 and at its second meeting on 14 November 2012, Members met with the Director of Nursing and the Associate Director of Nursing Patient Safety and Governance. The Group received the second quarterly performance report from April –

September 2012 reporting progress and development of the Quality Account period for 2012/13. The Working Group's final meeting is scheduled for 13 March 2013.

Consultation Task and Finish Group

6. Following the establishment of the Consultation Task and Finish Review Group, the Group has met to respond to the consultation on the NHS Constitution. The Scrutiny Committee feels it is important to respond to consultations to represent the views of our residents.

County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust Clinical Strategy and Vision

7. Following the work we have undertaken in respect of the Trust's Clinical Strategy we have considered an Interim Report of our findings to discuss how to take this work forward. We have agreed that three out of the five Task and Finish Review Groups will continue under different guises and allow all Members of the Committee the opportunity to get involved. We feel that as the focus of the Trusts Clinical Strategy has changed, our work must too.

County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust – Director of Nursing Update

8. We received a briefing from the Director in respect of the impact of the norovirus, the increase of Clostridium Difficile cases, the increase in Accident and Emergency and None Elective Admissions which increased longer waiting times and the usual winter pressures. Members were pleased to hear that the Director is personally undertaking some work in respect of assessing whether there is sufficient nursing staff and health care assistants on every Ward and the outcome of the report will be shared with Members in due course.

Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee

9. At our December meeting, Members received reassurance about the winter planning arrangements in place from NHS County Durham and Darlington and NHS Tees. We also received a presentation about the 111 service and benefits of the service. Transforming Community Services was also discussed and representatives from South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group and County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust reminded Members of their Strategies to provide integrated community services within community settings and away from the hospital. At our January meeting we have received feedback from the three Clinical Commissioning Groups across the Tees Valley in respect of their Authorisation and preparation for April 2013. We also received an overview of rehabilitation beds, mixed organic and functional wards for older people and Primary Care Psychological Therapy Services from the Director of Operations, Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust.

Work Programme 2012/13

10. 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, 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