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**OVERVIEW OF HEALTH AND PARTNERSHIPS 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 Partnerships Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

**Work Programme 2014/15**

2. We have given consideration to the Work Programme for this Committee for the Municipal Year 2014/15 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.

**Public Health Annual Report**

3. We received the initial draft outline of the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2014, 'A shared Agenda', the second report following the transfer of public health responsibilities from the NHS to local government, as part of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
4. Scrutiny was reminded that the first report in 2013, 'Building Blocks for Good Health in Darlington' described some of the key health issues people faced in Darlington and proposed key actions to improve the health of our population and to reduce health inequalities.
5. This year's report considered aspect of the wider determinants of health and well-being and identified the actions needed via a range of partnerships to shift the focus upstream to improve the health and well-being of our local population.

**Sepsis**

6. We received a presentation from the County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust (CDDFT) on the subject of Sepsis which is a common and potentially life-threatening condition triggered by an infection.
7. Sepsis can have devastating effects including multiple organ failure and can result in death if not treated quickly. Not only is there a severe impact on sufferers but there is a significant cost to the NHS.
8. Scrutiny was pleased to note that CDDFT has recently developed a Sepsis Screening Tool for early identification of sepsis. Members also noted that in January 2015 the Department of Health announced further measures to tackle

sepsis, involving the NHS, government and national health bodies.

9. Plans to tackle sepsis included Public Health England to look at the benefits of a new public awareness campaign on the signs and symptoms of sepsis, aimed at those most at risk.

### **County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust Clinical Strategy**

10. A Trust representative presented the CDDFT's publication 'Our plans for high quality clinical services: Right First Time, Every Time' which summarised the Trust's vision for services in the future, provided by the right professional, in the right place, either in hospital or closer to home, at the right time, first time, every time, 24 hours a day where necessary.
11. The document highlighted the key messages from engagement work undertaken by the Trust and summarised its plans for clinical services for the next five years. The services needed to change if the Trust was to continue to improve its services and meet the needs of a changing population.
12. Scrutiny was pleased to receive clarity on the proposals to co-locate A&E and Urgent Care at Darlington Memorial Hospital to future-proof the service.

### **Clinical Commissioning Group and Healthwatch Darlington A&E Events**

13. We received two reports detailing the feedback received from two engagement events on the subject of 'A&E – Who's really in a critical condition?' held on 4 and 11 February.
14. The events were to explore with the public a better model of care for the future and attracted over 100 participants including members of the public and various organisations. The Events incorporated expert speakers on key topics, including A&E and Five Year Forward View, Prevention and Self-Management, Pharmacy Services, and Primary Care Services. There was also information and signposting to prepare participants for the workshops; workshops, where in depth discussions were held to develop and identify issues, concerns, strengths and opportunities; and activities for the purpose of workshop feedback.
15. Great emphasis was given to the workshops at which participants held in depth discussions, based on six set questions, to develop and identify issues, concerns, strengths and opportunities.
16. It was also highlighted that in order to develop services the CCG would use different sources of information to ensure the services it bought on behalf of the population were modern, safe and of the highest quality possible. This included ensuring people's expectations and experience of services were understood and a part of any transformation.

## **Breast Clinic**

17. We were pleased to receive reassurances that despite a delayed completion date, essential work was being undertaken to enable the new equipment to be installed at Darlington Memorial Hospital.
18. Scrutiny welcomed the news that the new equipment would provide an enhanced service for patients and should be functional by early Summer.

**Councillor Wendy Newall**  
**Chair of the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee**