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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 Tackling Alcohol Related Harm**

3. We received a report which outlined the progress on work to tackle alcohol related harms in the Borough with particular emphasis on the Safer Drinking – Safer Darlington Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy: the Next Steps 2012-2015. The initiative demonstrates how partnerships are working in Darlington to reduce alcohol harm.
4. We considered the performance of the Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) commissioned services and an update on social norms work. We also noted the key challenges which had been identified for the future of tackling alcohol related harm locally.
5. We also gave consideration to the Alcohol Strategy Action Plan which outlined the updates in relation to its objectives and priorities. Particular references were made to the Connected Recovery Adults Drug and Alcohol Treatment Service, SWITCH Young People's Treatment Service, Homelessness Service and the Substance Misuse Training Service.
6. Members were very concerned to learn that the cost of Darlington of alcohol misuse across the public sector and the work place is some £41m. However, we noted that every pound invested in adult alcohol treatment saves £5 in costs to society.
7. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to recommend to Members that they include information about alcohol misuse, the costs and the services available in their Ward newsletters.

## **Strategic Grant Performance**

8. Scrutiny received a report which included details of performance delivery of six organisations which currently receive strategic grants from the Council. The report informed Members that a voluntary sector infrastructure review is underway. The review is looking at what will be required to support the community and voluntary sector organisations in the future and will contribute to the wider debate on the Council's MTFP.
9. Scrutiny was very pleased to note that all frontline organisations were continuing to over-perform particularly in the light of the welfare reforms which have resulted in increased demand for services.
10. Scrutiny agreed to re-convene the Strategic Grants Task and Finish Review Group and a meeting has been arranged when details of the review will be presented to Members for their consideration.

## **Breast Clinic**

11. County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust gave a presentation to the Scrutiny Committee as to the reasons why the Breast Clinic was recently transferred from Darlington Memorial Hospital to Bishop Auckland General Hospital.
12. Members expressed their concerns that no advance publicity or consultation had taken place prior to this temporary relocation and received assurances from the Trust representative that lessons had been learned from this oversight.
13. We were advised that since the two-week standard wait for breast referrals it had been increasingly difficult to achieve the national standard using four sites, especially as referrals continued to increase therefore a review of the service was to be undertaken.
14. The temporary change had been undertaken to ensure a safe, effective service which ensured that patients with possible cancers were seen promptly. Following discussion with CCG commissioners, from mid-May, all out-patient clinics for South Durham and Darlington were being held at Bishop Auckland Hospital; and from early June a similar arrangement for the North took place at University Hospital North Durham.
15. The Review of the Breast Cancer Clinic will consider options and make recommendations for the creation of a sustainable out-patient breast surgery service which was consistent with national and local commissioning priorities.
16. Representatives from the Scrutiny Committee will be visiting the Breast Clinic at Bishop Auckland to see what impact the transfer of services has had on Darlington residents.

## **County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust Clinical Strategy - Two and Five Year Operational Plan**

17. We received a presentation from County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust regarding its clinical strategy two and five year submissions to Monitor.
18. Scrutiny was informed that hospital, community and health and wellbeing services come together to form the largest provider of integrated healthcare in the North East.
19. It had been determined, following agreement with staff and stakeholders, that unscheduled care, integration and care closer to home, women and children and Centres of Excellence were the key issues of the Trust.
20. Work on the submission was completed in June and submitted to the Board and Governors for agreement. A summary version of the plan is to be published and made available to the public in due course.

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