

HEALTH AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13 January 2016

PRESENT – Councillor Newall (in the Chair); Councillors Crichlow, Donoghue, Regan, EA Richmond, S Richmond, H Scott, J Taylor and Tostevin. (9)

APOLOGIES – Councillors Copeland, Donoghue and Nutt. (3)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – (0)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Elizabeth Davison, Assistant Director, Finance and Human Resources; Seth Pearson, Executive Director of Darlington Partnership; Ken Ross, Public Health Principal; Mary Hall, Senior Engagement Officer and Karen Graves, Democratic Officer.

EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES – Jackie Kay, Assistant Chief Officer, Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group; Elaine Taylor, Long Term Conditions Collaborative Co-Ordinator, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust; Sarah Callaghan, Tees, Esk and Wear Valley Foundation Trust; and Diane Lax, Healthwatch Darlington.

HP41. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

HP42. MINUTES – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meetings of this Scrutiny Committee held on 4 November, 4 and 16 December 2015.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved as correct records.

HP43. MATTERS ARISING – Further to Minute HP35, the Chair reported that she had received a reply from the Office of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to her letter, on behalf of this Scrutiny Committee, objecting to the recent announcement of a cut in the Public Health Grant. The Chair outlined the content of the response and stated that it had been circulated to Members. The Public Health Principal confirmed that the formula produced by the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA) that is used to determine the level of Public Health Grant allocation is being revised. He stated that there had been consultation from 8 October to 6 November 2015 and that the feedback was currently being analysed. Based on what was known about the proposals to revise the formula it was not expected that the outcome for Darlington would be favourable in terms of future Public Health grant allocations.

In relation to Minute HP37/Dec/15, Councillor S Richmond referred to a Public Consultation Event, scheduled for 25 February 2016 in the Dolphin Centre, to give consideration to the location of assessment and treatment beds for older people with dementia. Members raised concerns over the layout of the document stating it was difficult to follow and the representative from TEWV welcomed Committee's feedback.

HP44. WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16 – The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during the current Municipal Year. In addition to the previously approved Work Programme, Members were requested to consider and approve Appendix 1 to the submitted report, which detailed the status of each item.

It was emphasised that the work programme was a rolling programme and any Member of this Scrutiny could request an item to be included provided that a Quad of Aims had been submitted to the Scrutiny Committee prior to ensure that it contributed to the strategic aims of the Council.

The submitted report outlined the Work Programme and requested Members consider the areas of work already listed and, if appropriate, include any further issues.

There was detailed discussion on the current status of various topics on the work programme.

In relation to Stroke Services the representative from the CCG advised that there was a significant variation in the community support available across County Durham and Darlington and that the CCG was currently looking at what the CCG currently commissions and what is needed.

Access to GP Services was due to be submitted to Scrutiny in Spring and it was reported that Jenny Steel would be invited to that meeting. The CCG representative also advised that a range of ideas have been piloted for Darlington.

The Chair reported that there was to be a stakeholder event in relation to the Better Health Programme (formerly SeQIHS) at Sedgefield Racecourse on 27 January from 6pm to 8pm and Members were encouraged to attend.

The Men's Health Champion, Councillor Regan, reported that a Survey Monkey had provided excellent feedback in relation to Men's Health and that his own recent experience of The Hub, located in the Dolphin Centre, had been excellent. Councillor Regan was keen to encourage the male population to attend The Hub to reap the benefits it offered.

Councillor Regan also reported that people with diabetes have to undertake annual eye tests and foot screening and in doing so raised concerns that diabetics now had to attend Hundens Lane for an annual foot test and were classed as new patients.

The Long Terms Conditions Collaborative Co-ordinator advised Committee that she would seek clarification as to why patients were now classed as new.

In relation to the information received from the Centre for Public Scrutiny on men's health, it was noted that Darlington was performing very well although Councillor Regan advised that an on-line forum could be established and the Public Health Principal advised that Public Health were happy to support any men's health promotions.

In relation to End of Life Care, Members agreed to complete other pieces of work prior to undertaking any in depth work on this topic. The CCG representative reported that David Hand had recently been appointed (MacMillan) Commissioning and Development Lead at North of England Commissioning Support Unit, working as part of the CCG's and NECS to develop and commission high quality services for patients and carers across the health system, who would be willing to assist Members with this piece of work.

Particular reference was made to the problems people had encountered in returning equipment to the Community Equipment Loan Services (CELS) following the death of a loved one or a person no longer requiring the equipment. The CCG representative advised that in some cases it was difficult for the new provider to locate equipment and that an equipment amnesty project was in place for Care Homes. Concerns were also raised that there was no merit in collecting some items of equipment and that people should be made aware of this. Officers agreed to locate the new provider's contact details so that the information could be widely circulated to the public .

RESOLVED – (a) That the current status of the Work Programme be noted.

(b) That the Work Programme be updated to reflect the decisions of this Scrutiny Committee.

HP45. DARLINGTON'S LONG TERM CONDITIONS COLLABORATIVE – The Director of Commissioning submitted a report (previously circulated) detailing the progress of Darlington's Long Term Conditions Collaborative (DLTCC) which was formed as part of the Better Care Fund and was only one of the improvement strands running as part of this programme across health and social care.

It was reported that DLTCC is a multi-agency approach, including the Council, CDDFT, Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust and Darlington CCG, to improve the customer journey through the complex system of health and care services, for people living with Darlington's most prevalent multiple chronic long term health conditions, including Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), Heart Failure, Asthma and Diabetes.

A Rapid Process Improvement Workshop (RPIW) was held in October 2015 where a cross organisational team considered how to improve the stable pathway for people suffering from breathlessness conditions. Prior to the event a number of issues with the current process were identified which formed the basis of the improvement focus during RPIW.

The RPIW was split into the improvement areas of Care Planning, Multi-Disciplinary Team Meetings, Key Worker, Patient Information, Discharge from Services and Transfers of Care.

Details were supplied of an implementation plan that had been drawn up for the improvements which runs until October 2016 and formed the first part of the delivery plan for Long Term Conditions. It was noted that several areas not included in the

RPIW had also been added to the plan which had been approved by the Chief Executives of the partner Organisations.

Discussion ensued on the work this Committee had done in relation to self-management of COPD and Members were informed that it was hoped that all the self-management information would be gathered together to ensure that there was access for all.

The Long Terms Conditions Collaborator Co-ordinator agreed to circulate a copy of the implementation plan to Members and in doing so informed Members that an end of project report would be produced to ensure benchmarking could be replicated for other conditions.

The Public Health Principal advised Committee that Darlington had a large cohort of people with undiagnosed accumulative symptoms who present when the condition is advanced making these conditions more difficult to treat and with worse outcomes for individuals. It was again stressed that people with symptoms be encouraged to present earlier to ensure that any long term condition is detected early.

RESOLVED – That the progress of Darlington’s Long Term Conditions Collaborative be welcomed by this Scrutiny Committee.

HP46. DARLINGTON PARTNERSHIP OVERVIEW AND LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS – The Partnership Director submitted a report (previously circulated) outlining the progress of Darlington Partnership since November 2014 and the effective delivery of the projects it had established.

Reference was made to the Partnership Board agreement in September 2011 to focus on a limited number of identified Action Priorities in order to instigate actions which visibly addressed issues facing Darlington alongside overseeing delivery of One Darlington: Perfectly Placed. It was stated that Action Priorities were developed to provide opportunities for the private sector to contribute to the business of the Board.

Foundation for Jobs began in April 2012 and was the Partnership’s response to youth unemployment by providing a range of activities to directly increase vocational opportunities for young people in Darlington.

Members were advised that The Partnership had secured 443 apprenticeship places and 509 young people had taken part in internships or eight-week work experience placements so far.

Good Friends was established in 2013 and is currently supported by the Council, Durham Constabulary, Neighbourhood Watch, Age UK Darlington, CDDFT, TEWV and Darlington CCG to provide a borough wide good neighbour scheme to respond to the needs of the elderly and vulnerable people outside of core service provision. The initiative provides support and friendship and assists users with a range of issues which if left unaddressed could compromise their ability to live safely and well independently.

Members were pleased to hear that 750 Good Friends had been recruited supporting 460 neighbours.

Details were supplied of the Darlington Cares initiative, established in 2012, a partnership of local employers, committed to making Darlington a better place through a coordinated approach to corporate social responsibility. The project works by centrally coordinating the skills, expertise and volunteering resources of member employers and their employees and matching these to local projects where they can make a positive impact.

It was stated the project was now fully self-funding with 8,500 hours of employee supported volunteering being delivered and that an evaluation of staffing was to be undertaken due to a member of staff securing alternative employment.

Teesside University hosts the initiative and focuses on older people, children, community and environment. Membership is currently 22 employers, is now self-sustaining and adds skill value to Darlington.

Committee was advised that, following a review in January 2015, the delivery areas had been revised to align with the revised One Darlington: Perfectly Placed strategy to address children with the best start in life, more people caring for our environment and enough support for people when needed. Details of the current programmes under those priorities were highlighted to Members.

Reference was made to Help Hubs established to help poverty in the Borough by providing access to a food bank, advice around debt, benefit and housing, access to the Credit Union and Council Customer Services. There are currently three hubs based at King Centre, St Andrews and Cockerton with a further two proposed.

Mental Wellbeing in the Workplace had been identified as an Action Priority for 2014 and through Darlington Cares, employers jointly developed an initiative to help local businesses support mental wellbeing in the workplace. Partners include Darlington Mind, Darlington Partnership and the Council and this new approach will enable employers to share skills and expertise to help employers in Darlington to begin to address this important issue. It was reported that as smaller organisations do not have relevant expertise larger companies are 'buddying up' with them and sharing their knowledge.

Following the Partnership's Prosperity for All Conference a Financial Inclusion Group had been established to combat poverty in Darlington and improve levels of financial inclusion in Darlington. Members noted that nationally and locally there had been an increase in debt and financial exclusion resulting in a steep rise in Darlington residents seeking help with debt, accessing crisis support and utilising prepayment meters.

Particular reference was made to the recently established Advice Network, an online advice portal to provide a single local gateway for local residents and volunteers in the sector to access directly. The an online resource detailed information and useful tools to make it easier to take control of individual situations providing letters, fact sheets and many links to national and local websites providing details on how everyday problems could be resolved.

Members were informed that the website was now live and could be accessed at www.darlingtonadvicenetwork.co.uk

Members welcomed the success of the Culture of Ingenuity Partnership Assembly held in October 2015 and the agreement to hold an Annual Ingenious Fair to develop the Ingenious Brand for Darlington to support inward investment.

Members also noted that nominations for the Best of Darlington have opened this month with a new category of Public Sector Hero being announced. The Ceremony will be held on 6 May 2016 and nominations can be made online.

Discussion ensued on long-term prospects for internships, the period of an apprenticeship, increased interest for engineering courses at Darlington College from both boys and girls, preparation of an evaluation of Good Friends which would be presented to a future Scrutiny Committee and Members advertising the Darlington Advice Network on their Ward Newsletters.

RESOLVED – (a) That the report be noted.

(b) That the congratulations of this Scrutiny Committee be extended to the Darlington Partnership on its success and achievements.

HP47. ANNUAL REPORT – VETERANS ARMED FORCES – The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) outlining activity undertaken in relation to the Armed Forces Covenant including work at a regional level.

Members noted that the Council had close relationships with the Armed Forces Community and had made a commitment to support work that takes place in partnership to support the Armed Forces and the delivery of the Community Covenant.

Scrutiny noted that the Council continued to support delivery of the North East Regional Scrutiny work in relation to the Health Needs of Veterans and worked closely with other Tees Valley Authorities to understand the issues faced by veterans.

Particular reference was made to the Tees Valley Armed Forces Forum which had been involved in exploring mutual areas of co-operation across health, housing, education, NHS, Job Centre Plus, Military Charities and Veterans Welfare Services to support and improve the health and wellbeing of members of the Armed Forces Community.

Particular reference was made to the lack of funding opportunities and the maintenance of an up to date directory highlighting the range of help and support available to Veterans.

Members also noted that the Council had strengthened links to the local Reservist Centre at Neasham Road and continued to work closely with Catterick Garrison to ensure that any basing changes are considered when planning services.

Discussion ensued on the amount of service users and to the funding application process which had amended in August 2015 to provide large and small grants. Small grants were aimed at projects of 12 months and under £20,000 with large grants available up to £500,000 for projects up to three years. These grants are decided by a national panel based on the recommendations of regional panels.

RESOLVED – That the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee acknowledge the value of the Armed Forces Community and note the work taking place to support this Community.

HP48. EYE HEALTH REVIEW GROUP – Submitted – The notes of a meeting held 25 November 2015.

Discussion ensued on the importance of having regular eye tests as some conditions were avoidable if detected early and the holding of a pilot Eye Health Roadshow for staff in the Town Hall Civic Reception highlighting the importance of regular testing and the need to protect eyes when working in certain environments.

RESOLVED – That the notes be received.

HP49. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN – Submitted - With the prior approval of the Chair to the matter being treated as urgent to consult with Members at the earliest possible time a report in relation to the Medium Term Financial Plan which had been considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 1 December 2015.

The report set out the two-stage approach to revise the MTFP and Members noted that the first stage was to set the Council Tax for 2016/17, along with the fees and charges and that the second stage, to be considered by Cabinet in February, would be to further revise the MTFP, following receipt of the Local Government Finance Settlement.

Members acknowledged that there were no specific charges relating to Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee, however agreed to recommend to the Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee that the charges within the MTFP were appropriate.

RESOLVED – (a) That the report be noted.

(b) That it be recommended to Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee that the charges within the MTFP were appropriate.