

HEALTH AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15 September 2014

PRESENT – Councillor Taylor (in the Chair); Councillors Donoghue, Macnab, Newall, EA Richmond and S Richmond. (6)

APOLOGIES – Councillor H Scott; Jackie Kay, Assistant Chief Officer, Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group; and Sharon Pickering, Director of Planning, Business Development and Performance, Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – ()

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Catherine Whitehead, Assistant Chief Executive, Mary Hall, Senior Engagement Officer and Karen Graves, Democratic Officer.

EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES – Diane Lax, Healthwatch Darlington. (1)

HP24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Councillors Newall and Macnab each declared an interest in Minute HP23 below due to their being on the Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) Board.

HP25. STRATEGIC GRANTS – Pursuant to Minute HP23/Sep/14, the Assistant Chief Executive submitted a report (previously circulated) outlining proposed actions following the infrastructure review of Strategic Grants.

A Task and Finish Review Group established by Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee examined the way that the Council supports the Voluntary and Community Sector through Strategic Grants. The Group also considered the report, prepared by an external consultant, on 18 July 2014 and recommended that the Local Authority should develop a specification to enable the ongoing assessment of delivery under the Strategic Grant.

It was stated that the Assistant Chief Executive and Senior Engagement Officer of the Council had had several meetings with the Executive Director of eVolution to discuss the report and agree the way forward. Discussions focussed on business planning and vision: strategic development of the sector; the directory and Mirus; toolkit for supporting the wider sector; relationships and representation; tendering and contracting; volunteering; capacity of evolution; and data capture.

Reference was made to a joint action plan that had been developed (circulated at the meeting) which outlined a series of steps that needed to be taken within six months' time and detailed required evidence to demonstrate delivery.

It was further stated that monthly monitoring meetings had been established to assess progress and proposed changes would enable a specification to be drawn up in the future.

Members were informed that the Consultant was supportive of the approach and had also suggested a number of additions to the proposed actions.

Discussion ensued on the timescale for receipt of comments on the Action Plan from the Sector, proposed membership of the Strategic Development Group, the strategic role of eVolution to ensure that messages are relayed to and from relevant bodies/organisations such as the Darlington Partnership.

Healthwatch Darlington also expressed an interest in being involved in the Strategic Development Group to ensure joined up working and alleviate the possibility of duplication of work.

RESOLVED – (a) That the report be noted.

(b) That the comments from this Scrutiny Committee be considered when considering the future of infrastructure support.

(c) That a further report be submitted to the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee scheduled for 6 January 2015 detailing progress of the Action Plan to inform the development of the specification.