

HEALTH AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

17 June 2015

PRESENT – Councillor Newall (in the Chair); Councillors Crichlow, Nutt, Regan, EA Richmond, S Richmond, H Scott, J Taylor and Tostevin. (11)

APOLOGIES – Councillors Donoghue and Nutt, Michelle Thompson, Healthwatch Darlington and Martin Phillips Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group. (2)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor Copeland. (1)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Catherine Whitehead, Assistant Chief Executive, Sharon Rain, Head of Organisational Planning, Mary Hall, Senior Engagement Officer, Ken Ross, Public Health Principal and Karen Graves, Democratic Officer.

EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES – Jackie Kay, Assistant Chief Officer, Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group, Sarah Perkins, Operations and Business Development, County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust, Anita Porter, Senior Commissioning Support Officer, North of England Commissioning Support and Diane Lax, Healthwatch Darlington.

HP1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Councillor declared an interest in Minute HP8 below as a Board Member of the Citizens Advice Bureau.

HP2. TO CONSIDER TIMINGS OF MEETINGS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2015/16 - RESOLVED – That meetings of this Scrutiny Committee be held at 9.30am for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2015/16.

HP3. MINUTES – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meetings of this Scrutiny Committee held on 15 and 23 April 2015.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be agreed as a correct record.

HP4. MATTERS ARISING – There were no matters arising.

HP5. WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16 – The Assistant Chief Executive 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.

It was reported that the Darlington Strategic Needs Assessment was to be refreshed in October 2015 and in relation to Stroke Services Members were keen to scrutinise Care in the Community, following discharge from Bishop Auckland Hospital, during autumn.

The Health and Social Care Delivery Plan and Health and Well Being Strategy was scheduled to be considered during September and in relation to Telehealthcare, the Chair reported that Ian Briggs of CDDFT was willing to attend Scrutiny Committee and it was suggested that a Joint Review be held with Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee.

The Chair reiterated the importance of keeping Scrutiny informed of developments regarding Urgent Care Integration and a Trust representative advised Members that although Urgent Care had not recently been considered by the Trust's Board a Group was currently benchmarking and work was progressing in order to get the correct model for DMH.

Healthwatch Darlington informed Scrutiny that an evaluation of the two of the four schemes implemented as part of the Prime Minister's Challenge Fund was now available. It was suggested that a special meeting be convened to give full consideration to the report.

The Chair informed Members that the Director of Commissioning had indicated that he would attend the next ordinary meeting of Scrutiny to give an update on Securing Quality of Health Services (SeQIHS).

Councillor S Richmond, the Lead Member for Long Term Conditions provided Members with the progress to date and in doing so Councillor Regan advised Committee that it was Diabetes Week and a stall had been placed in the Hub providing guidance, advice and information.

It was stated that Quality Accounts were to remain on the Work Programme as annual issues and during consideration of the item a representative of TEWV informed Committee that the results of the CQC Inspection held at the end of January were now available. A document was circulated at the meeting which summarised the results service areas/domains and the rating scales allocated to each service. The overall rating for TEWV was good with positive feedback being received and many examples of good practice, care and patience to service users.

It was reported that changes had been made where issues had been raised and the Trust's representative highlighted that 367 Thornaby Road had recently re-registered as social care and not health which had resulted in a poor rating around the admin process.

With regards to the Outpatient Breast Clinic Service Members expressed concerns to CDDFT on the relocation of the Clinic to Darlington Memorial Hospital taking longer than originally planned. A representative from the Trust assured Scrutiny that an appropriate room was to be commissioned in July with a view to the new kit being installed. Members have expressed their further concerns at the delay in establishing the new Clinic and reiterated that patients needed to be kept informed.

Councillor Regan, as Men's Health Champion, informed Members that it was Men's Health Week and in doing so circulated two information Flyers giving further details. It was also reported that the three drop-in sessions at the Hub were fully-booked, a survey was to be undertaken in relation to men's health and it was hoped to establish a local group to promote men's health.

The Public Health Principle endorsed that the message had to be relayed to all men and a smarter effective service would ensure that men use the services available.

In relation to the Home Equipment Loan Service a representative from the CCG advised Committee that, following a service review and procurement exercise, the service was now known as the Community Equipment Service.

Committee was informed that a new provider would commence the service on 1 July and that two local authorities and the three CCG's across County Durham and Darlington had been involved in the service review. It was hoped that the new provider would be more commercially sensitised and collect equipment speedily once it was no longer required. Care Homes currently have concerns due to the amount of equipment in their care and it was confirmed that buffer stores were to be utilised more effectively. It was indicated that the new provider would be willing to attend a future meeting of Scrutiny to outline its service.

Reference was made to the Community Safety Plan 2015 – 2020, a long and complex document, being considered at a future meeting of Scrutiny.

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.

HP6. WINTER PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS – The Senior Commissioning Support Officer, North of England Commissioning Support gave a presentation to Members detailing the problems and issues encountered during the Winter Period, the actions taken and the effectiveness of those actions.

It was stated that the number of people attending A&E has increased by ten per cent nationally and some patients had more complex needs resulting in longer stays. The

Trust had also encountered delays in discharge due to full nursing homes and ambulance handover delays had been an issue at County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust (CDDFT).

Members were surprised to learn that there had been a 10 per cent increase in attendances nationally, although the reason for this was unclear, and Darlington had seen a three per cent increase.

Committee was informed that it was a challenge to target where funding was required as the traditional winter planning period had now evolved in to all year round resilience planning.

Details were provided of some of the short term actions taken including more proactive use of discharge processes already in place and increased clinicians in 111 to support call handlers, which had proved very effective and reduced ambulance transfers to A&E.

Longer term actions for Winter Planning included clinical hospital liaison officers aiding ambulance handovers, a review of bed provision to support RIACT and evaluation of winter monies to ensure money is targeted where the system benefitted most. It was also reported that the Better Care Fund enabled more proactive care planning and implementation of emergency healthcare plans for high risk people, including the alignment of Community Matrons to care home residents. There was also provision for additional capacity across the system via the Prime Ministers Challenge Fund.

Members welcomed the lessons learned for the coming winter including the use of clinical hospital liaison officers at the entrance to A&E improving ambulance turnarounds, improved flow through the hospital minimising delays to discharge being critical and ongoing work being considered by the Systems Resilience Group on this and essential daily communication via the Surge Management Team.

RESOLVED – (a) That the thanks of this Committee be extended to Ms Porter for her informative presentation.

(b) That the item remains on the Work Programme.

HP7. HEALTH AND WELL BEING BOARD – Members are aware that the Board's Work Programme items were reflected in its agendas, that it was useful to have Members of Scrutiny on the Board, that the process was more focussed and there was an excellent cross section of representation.

There was nothing to report from Councillors Newall and H Scott.

RESOLVED –That Members look forward to receiving an update at the next meeting of Scrutiny Committee.

HP8. INFRASTRUCTURE REVIEW – The Assistant Chief Executive submitted a report (previously circulated) outlining proposed changes to the funding of infrastructure support to the voluntary sector from September 2015.

The submitted report stated that a review of Strategic Grants conducted by this Committee's Task and Finish Group led to an examination of infrastructure support to the voluntary sector and an independent consultant's review was commissioned.

Following the Review an action plan was developed to enable the existing infrastructure support to move towards an alternative delivery plan over a period of six months. Scrutiny were advised that the Council had worked with Evolution over the past six months to support delivery of the plan and had identified a number of key requirements for infrastructure which have been grouped into the three strands of Representational and Strategic Infrastructure Support; Information Governance and Funding; and Volunteering, Recruitment, Placement and Support.

Particular reference was made to volunteering, highlighted as a key area in which the role of the infrastructure body was pivotal. Feedback from the review stated that there appeared to be no single point of contact for volunteering and opportunities were being lost. Signposting of volunteers was dependent on the signposter's own knowledge of groups and organisations in Darlington and their ability to involve volunteers and support them.

Committee was informed that Cabinet had approved the proposal to remove the Strategic Grant in relation to infrastructure and agreed the development of an effective representational forum which could help to achieve the broader objectives of commissioners whilst providing effective representation and engagement with the sector; the commissioning of an electronic funding resource which could also provide community based governance information to support community groups and voluntary sector organisations; the commissioning of a service to recruit and support volunteers and promote volunteering across the Borough; and establishment of a performance framework to monitor the number of volunteers and the contribution of volunteering to draw in external funding and reduce demand.

Committee also noted that the proposals would enable the savings identified within the Strategic Grant budget as set out in the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2016/17 to be achieved.

Discussion ensued on the proposed model of delivery for infrastructure support and the implementation timescales, the need to work with the Sector, delivery models in place at other authorities and the role of Scrutiny in monitoring the service.

RESOLVED –That the decision of Cabinet be noted.

HP9. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK QUARTER 4 -- Pursuant to Minute HP57/Feb/15, the Head of Organisational Planning gave a PowerPoint presentation which detailed a revised approach to performance management which had been adopted to allow an assessment of the achievement of One Darlington: Perfectly

Placed outcomes and the performance of services delivered by the Council which contributed to the achievement of those outcomes.

The presentation highlighted statistical data around the key performance indicators that were relevant to this Scrutiny Committee.

Members were advised that indicators would, in future, reflect the new Ward boundaries.

In relation to life expectancy Members were informed that life expectancy in the north east had decreased for the first time in ten years with no apparent reason.

Scrutiny were pleased to note the low rate of mortality rates from causes considered preventable which was due to the good health care provided by Darlington and that smoking prevalence was declining with Darlington, mirroring England's statistics.

Individual Scrutiny Committees will continue to receive relevant performance management information on a six-monthly basis and Scrutiny will continue to monitor the overall picture.

Discussion ensued on the obesity of children being society driven with breast-fed babies being less likely to become obese, although it was emphasised that there was a large jump between Reception and Year 6.

Members were informed that a full analysis of data would be available at year end and that they should advise the Democratic Officer of any particular data they wished to scrutinise. It was also stated that interventions and outcomes could be difficult to track although where possible Ward data would be forwarded to Members and that the performance agenda was changing due to the Better Care Fund, Better Care Act and Joint Working with Clinical Commissioning Groups.

RESOLVED – That the Head of Organisational Planning be thanked for her informative presentation.

HP10. MEMBERS' TOOLKIT – With the prior approval of the Chair to the matter being treated as urgent to enable Members to be advised at the earliest opportunity, the Assistant Chief Executive reported on the progress made in relation to the development of a Members' Toolkit which would assist them in their community roles. It was reported that the next stages in its development was to consult with Members to ascertain their views and input and that a working group, comprising a mix of Scrutiny, Cabinet, new, existing and rural Members would be established and a representative from this Scrutiny Committee to serve on that Group was requested.

RESOLVED – That, Councillor J Taylor be appointed to represent this Scrutiny Committee on the Working Group.