

**HEALTH AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

18 April 2016

**PRESENT** – Councillor Newall (in the Chair); Councillors EA Richmond, S Richmond, H Scott, J Taylor and Tostevin. (6)

**APOLOGIES** – Councillors Nutt and Regan. (2)

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE** – (0)

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE** – Miriam Davidson, Director of Public Health, Ken Ross, Public Health Principal and Karen Graves Democratic Officer.

**EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES** – Michelle Thompson, Healthwatch Darlington.

**HP62. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

**HP63. MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2016/17 TO 2019/20** – The Scrutiny Committee met to discuss those proposals contained in phase 2 of the next round of spending reductions as contained within the Medium Term Financial Plan 2016/17 to 2019/20, which were specifically under its remit.  
provision

The Scrutiny Committee considered the following proposals in relation to the core Offer and the Impact Assessment Forms :-

**HP1 and S1 – Sexual Health Services** – Details were supplied of the core offer budget for sexual health services and contraception services which was a statutory duty of Public Health to provide, or make arrangements to secure the provision of comprehensive open access sexual health services (including free STI testing and treatment, notification of sexual partners of infected persons and free provision of contraception including Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) and Emergency Contraception.)

Details were supplied of the contracts in place to deliver the elements of the sexual health pathway together with service activity data.

The proposal was to remodel the service to be targeted at those who are at greatest risk of early unintended pregnancy and poorer sexual health; the model for Chlamydia screening is to be reshaped to reflect national evidence of effectiveness ensuring screening is targeted at those most likely to test positive for the disease, specifically reducing wide non-targeted screening where positivity rates were low.

Reference was made to the impact assessment in relation to the proposal to reduce the budget to the GUM Clinic by £25,000 and £1,980 for non-contract activity budget which would see a net budget reduction of £27,834 by 2020/12.

Following a question Members were advised that £39,620 was paid to other local authorities who provided GUM services to Darlington residents who accessed services elsewhere. There is a range of tariffs used by different Health Trusts and other providers with Darlington paying a tariff based on the national non-statutory tariff negotiated and agreed by NHS providers and NHS England. Claims for contraception services provided to Darlington residents in other local authority areas were not paid as, unlike STI treatment, these were regarded as routine, non-urgent and could be accessed if registered with a local GP. Checks were made through Public Health England to validate GUM activity from different providers and to ensure that any claims were correct. The line identified as 'Overheads' is the budget to support delivery of the work programme of the RESH Co-Ordinator and facilitated activities such as the Healthy Lifestyles Survey in local primary and secondary schools; provision of training to other professionals to ensure high quality SRE; and other related interventions for young people in Darlington.

**HP2 – 0-19 Years** – Details were supplied of the core offer budget to provide the service that delivers the statutory elements of the Health Child Pathway to meet the needs of over 25000 children from birth to 19 years in Darlington through the provision of both universal and target services required through regulation.

Scrutiny was advised that the contract had recently been subject to a competitive tendering process with a new specification, requiring an innovative model to deliver the Healthy Child Programme and improve outcomes for children, young people and their families in Darlington. The process delivered significant savings when compared to the previous contract with changes in service configuration and delivery which includes numbers and types of staff, different locations and settings that children, young people and their families will access in future.

**HP3 and S2 – Substance Misuse and Drug and Alcohol Team (DAAT)** – Details were supplied of the core offer budget for the Council to continue to meet its obligations around funding of treatment, detoxification, recovery and harm reduction services.

Reference was made to the impact assessment in relation to the proposals to remove the contribution to a local organisation providing homelessness support services for vulnerable individuals presenting with substance use issues; termination of the DAAT specialist team resulting in deletion of four posts; and withdrawal of contributions to BALANCE, the regional office for the reduction of Alcohol Harm all of which would see a net budget reduction of £276,964 by 2020/21.

Discussion ensued on the excellent work undertaken by the DAAT over the last five years; commissioning responsibilities around the service; and the impact of this proposal through the loss of capacity to undertake reactive work. It was highlighted that not all authorities in the North East have retained a dedicated DAAT team, however, it was acknowledged that there was a continued need for strong partnership working to ensure best outcomes in this field.

Particular concerns were raised on the impact of vulnerable people; performance management of the service; and the elements of other Committees' work, and resultant decisions, impacting on the same group of vulnerable people.

Members were informed that it was proposed to move the current functions of the DAAT team, including commissioning and contract monitoring, to a non-dedicated team; and partnership arrangements would require to be changed with other partners taking more responsibility or more of a leadership role in future. A risk assessment was currently being prepared and it was emphasised that the treatment and care budget was unaffected.

Scrutiny was informed that there were approximately 400 service users accessing services at any time, with performance being reported through the DAAT Board; Darlington's investment was significantly less than other Tees Valley Authorities (TVA), although the offer was different, Darlington's successful completions of drug treatments were comparable to its TVA neighbours. Darlington's level of need was also different with higher amphetamine and cocaine users and aging heroin users whose needs were all understood by DAAT.

The proposals in relation to the Substance Misuse and Drug and Alcohol Team were to be further discussed at a Task and Finish meeting on 22 April 2016.

**HP4 and S4 – Stop Smoking Service and Tobacco Control** – Details were supplied of the core offer budget to meet the Council's obligations to provide support for smokers to quit and tobacco control.

Reference was made to the impact assessment in relation to the proposals to remodel the Stop Smoking Services; and terminate the Council's contribution to the FRESH North East Tobacco Office which will restrict Darlington's direct participation in future regional smoking awareness and prevention campaigns. The range of local, regional and national performance information policy updates would no longer be available from FRESH with these having to be provided locally. Darlington would not have direct influence on any future regional or national lobbying campaigns around tobacco that FRESH undertake. This proposal would see a net budget reduction of £29,401 by 2020/21.

Scrutiny was advised that there was a particular focus to support pregnant women who smoke to quit as rates of smoking in pregnancy in Darlington was higher than the national average. Work is currently ongoing with midwifery colleagues and the CCG to ensure women who smoke are provided opportunities and support to stop smoking. The current model for the delivery of stop smoking services was inherited from the Primary Care Trust and had been in place for several years; service information indicates that this service model, using local GP's and pharmacies, was no longer as effective and a new service model was being developed to ensure Darlington residents had access to a high quality service that fully complied with NICE guidance as well as recommendations and guidance from other national bodies. This new model is also required as, nationally, the number of people accessing NHS Stop Smoking services has dropped year on year, however, the prevalence of smoking in the population continues to drop. Research is underway to understand why, however it was likely the increased use of e-cigs and vaping were a significant factor as more people use these to help them quit smoking without accessing stop smoking services. .

Discussion ensued on the Baby Clear Programme which was part of a package of support provided to pregnant women to help them quit smoking when pregnant and after their baby is born; and the provision of training for midwifery assistants, working in Darlington Memorial Hospital, to support pregnant mothers.

**HP5 and S3 – Public Health Advice including the NHS Core Offer and Tees Valley Shared Service** – Details were supplied of the core offer budget to meet the mandated service, under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, to enable the Director of Public Health to discharge statutory duties under that Act, through the provision of a trained and qualified Public Health workforce which is competent to provide advice and support in all aspects required to ensure the Council's Public Health statutory duties and obligations are met.

Reference was made to the impact assessment in relation to the proposals to reduce Public Health Specialist advice and capacity and terminate the contract with Tees Valley Public Health Shared Service which would see a net budget reduction of £206,327 by 2020/21.

Discussion ensued on access to specialised services being made available when required; the statutory requirement to provide the CCG with Public Health advice and respond to its needs; and the impact of Tees Valley not providing a service to Darlington.

**HP6 – NHS Health Checks** – Details were supplied of the core offer budget of the Council to ensure, under Section 2B NHS Act 2016, that all eligible individuals aged 40-74 living in Darlington are provided with a NHS Health Check once every 5 years ensuring that the Check complies with all relevant guidance and standards.

Scrutiny was advised that a new contract had been offered to local GP practices with incentive payments being altered to reflect outcomes for patients and key strategic Public Health outcomes, which had made the service provided more responsive to local needs and cost effective particularly with respect to outcomes.

**HP7 – Prescribing and Pharmacology** – Details were supplied of the core offer budget which will continue to meet the Council's obligations by ensuring that the Council continues to fund treatments provided under its Public Health functions and provide access to medicines prescribed as part of their Public Health commissioned services.

**S5 – Public Mental Health** – Reference was made to the impact assessment in relation to the proposal to remove the Arts on Prescription Service and discontinue community based mental health improvement training which would see a net budget reduction of £91,558 by 2020/21.

Discussion ensued on TEWV mental health services and extended services provided by TEWV and the Fire and Rescue Service in relation to alcohol, smoking, dementia, slips/trips/falls and social loneliness.

**S6 – Contributions to Community Safety, Violence Prevention and Social Exclusion** – Reference was made to the impact assessment in relation to the proposal to reduce the Council's Community Safety contribution to the statutory minimum

resulting in the deletion of two posts which would see a net budget reduction of £104,970 by 2020/21.

**S7 – Sanctuary Scheme** – Reference was made to the impact assessment in relation to the proposal to delete the non-statutory Sanctuary Target Hardening Service which would see a net budget reduction of £18,054 by 2020/21.

**S8 – Public Health** – Reference was made to the impact assessment in relation to the proposal to cease contribution to the Home Improvement Agency contract that is held by Supporting People which provided an integrated housing support service and would see a net budget reduction of £15,475 by 2020/21.

**S9 – Obesity Management** – Reference was made to the impact assessment in relation to the proposal to close the Healthy Darlington Hub, disband the Move More Team and cease the School Sports Partnership Programme resulting in the deletion of 14 posts which would see a net budget reduction of £438,720 by 2020/21.

Discussion ensued on the concerns of NHS colleagues; mitigation programmes and alternative services available, including a proposal for 'Future Fund' to retain the community elements, particularly focused on young people and physical activity based in Eastbourne sports complex and the impact on vulnerable people.

Members were advised that the proposal for 'Future Fund' contribution meant that there was the potential to offer a different service at reduced cost, including making every contact count, (MECC) and training of staff through the retention of a specific element of the Healthy Darlington team.

It was highlighted that the school meal service was part of the wider Healthy Darlington approach, branded as Healthy Darlington meals and this approach could potentially be adapted for other settings such as takeaways and restaurants. Other external funding opportunities included Better Care Fund social-prescribing and Sport England to retain elements of the Healthy Darlington offer such as improving physical activity for vulnerable groups. The Sport Development Team had a good track record of gaining external funds.

**S10 – Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)** - Reference was made to the impact assessment in relation to the proposal to remove the Public Health contribution to the MARAC which would see a net budget reduction of £11,348 by 2020/21.

**Futures Fund – Public Health Sports Development Team** – Reference was made to the proposal to include, in the Futures Fund, a budget of £80,000 to ensure that the Move More element of Healthy Darlington was retained to continue to support involvement in Sport and Physical Activity within the Borough, in particular working to engage children through engaging with schools, volunteers, clubs, coaches and providing opportunities and events in Darlington.

**RESOLVED** – That the information provided at this stage be noted.