

HEALTH AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

20 April 2016

PRESENT – Councillor Newall (in the Chair); Councillors Crichlow, Regan, EA Richmond, S Richmond, H Scott, J Taylor and Tostevin. (8)

APOLOGIES – Councillors, Nutt and Jackie Kay, Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group. (2)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – (0)

ABSENT – Councillor I Haszeldine.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Miriam Davidson, Director of Public Health, Seth Pearson, Executive Director, Darlington Partnership, Pat Simpson, Senior Project Manager, Better Care Fund and Karen Graves, Democratic Officer.

EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES – Chris Lanigan, Head of Planning and Business Development, Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys Foundation Trust and Diane Lax, Healthwatch Darlington.

HP64. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Councillor Regan declared a non-pecuniary interest as an employee of Age UK.

HP65. MINUTES – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 24 February 2016

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

HP66. 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 Telehealthcare Councillor S Richmond advised that she had recently attended Rosemary Court where the benefits of Telehealth were evident for all residents.

In relation to the Better Health Programme, Members were encouraged to attend the NHS Better Health Programme Stakeholder Event scheduled for 4 May along with the two public events scheduled for Darlington residents. Members stressed the importance of the NHS using language which the public could easily understand.

With regard to Eye Health, Healthwatch advised Scrutiny that several events had been arranged at various Darlington work places, coinciding with Safety Week, and Darlington College. Further information could be obtained from Healthwatch. The Chair welcomed the information as it was imperative that eye tests were promoted together, with diabetes which was associated with eye health, and stressed the need to involve Darlington Cares.

The Director of Public Health advised Members that it was uncertain when the National Policy on Obesity was to be published although strategic work was currently ongoing.

The Men's Health Champion, Councillor Regan, reported Men's Health Week 2016 – 13 to 19 June was focussing on how to beat stress in men, a serious issue with many sufferers not talking to partners, friends or professionals. Details of 'Beat Stress, Feel Better' Booklets containing profession specific information were available from the Men's Health Forum Website and the The Hub is keen to help with work ongoing to encourage men to talk about all health issues. Scrutiny was keen to consider Stress as a topic for the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee stall at the GOLD Tea Dance.

The Head of Planning and Business Development, TEWV expressed support for Men's Health Week and in doing so advised Scrutiny that Darlington had the worst mental health in the Region.

The Director of Public Health stated that work was needed to understand the underlying reasons why Darlington had a high rate of crisis intervention which could be due to the fact that mental health was more high profile in Darlington therefore the population were more aware and an evidence-based narrative was required.

Councillor S Richmond stated that the Fire Service and Police would also be very supportive of any stress-related initiatives.

In relation to End of Life and Palliative Care, Councillor H Scott advised Members that an impressive new extension of the St Teresa's Hospice had recently been completed and Members were encouraged to undertake a visit.

The Director of Public Health advised Members that once the new Lead Officer from the County Durham and Darlington Trust was known a report should be forthcoming on the Action Plan Arising from the CQC Inspection of CDDFT in 2015.

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.

HP67. BETTER CARE FUND – The Director of Children and Adults submitted a report (previously circulated) on progress of the 2016 Better Care Fund (BCF) programme of work. The Council and Darlington Commissioning Group (CCG) were required to make a submission in respect of the BCF setting out how they will, together, use the fund to address key issues. These include delays to the transfer of care of elderly patients who are medically fit into the community, keeping people safe at home for as long as possible and extending the Multi-Disciplinary Team approach.

Reference was made to a new element of the project in developing the prevention agenda offering non medical interventions through ‘social prescribing’.

It was stated that the submission had been approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board for adoption; submitted ahead of the final deadline of 25 April 2016; and that a pooling agreement (s75) was in preparation in respect of the fund which must be in place by 30 June 2016.

Particular reference was made to 2016 being the second year of the BCF and that Darlington’s allocation in 2016/17 was £8,014,000, comprising £7,274,000 CCG revenue funding and £740,000 Disabled Facility Grant. £2,337,000 of the CCG Revenue was based on the Relative Needs Formula for social care and a further £2,067,000 was ring-fenced for NHS out of hospital commissioned services. It was also stated that the fund must be deployed in line with eight national policy requirements, all of which were met by the Council.

Members were informed that the plan fitted within Darlington’s longer-term health and social care transformation Vision 2020 and aligned with the Foundation Trusts’ operational plans and the One Darlington community strategy objectives.

Discussion ensued on discharge management, particularly the amount of step down beds in the community although Members were advised that in some instances beds were not required and a seat or waiting area would suffice. It was also stated that step down was less of an impact as non-weight bearing patients i.e. hip replacements in Darlington.

Following a question Members were informed that Healthwatch Darlington provided the patient/carer voice and concerns were raised over domiciliary care around dementia and discharge.

Scrutiny was informed that the Public Health Principal had recently attended meetings with clinicians around social prescribing and some working models had been explored including Ways to Wellbeing, Gateshead Council and Social Bond Funding, a Newcastle Council Pilot Scheme.

RESOLVED – (a) That the Better Care Fund submission 2016/17 and ongoing work to pool the fund be noted.

(b) That the signing of a S75 agreement for pooling be noted.

HP68. JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT – The Director of Children and Adult Services submitted a report (previously circulated) detailing the completed Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) as an internet based source of information for use by staff, partner organisations and the general public.

It was stated that the Health and Well Being Board was legally required to complete a JSNA for the local area as part of its duties under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, building on the existing statutory duty on the Directors of Children’s Services, Adult Social Services and Public Health contained in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

Details were provided of the JSNA Core Dataset which was drawn from national and local validated sources and used as the basis for the data content with additional local data, providing a comprehensive picture for the Borough. Scrutiny was informed that the JSNA will be reviewed at least six-monthly to ensure the most recent data releases are included e.g. education attainment data published in January.

The Director of Public Health advised Members that when the JSNA was updated the older data was still available; there was no provision to provide specific updates to Members; and agreed priorities were dependent upon current needs. It was also stated that a mental health profile was also available although not a detailed analysis which could be requested.

A Member queried how the information linked to other departments as there were anomalies with some data relating to housing needs and was advised that the comment would be fed back as it was important to reference where the information/figures came from.

RESOLVED – That the completed Joint Strategic Needs Assessment be noted.

HP69. GOOD FRIENDS PROJECT – TWO YEAR EVALUATION – The Director, Darlington Partnership submitted a report (previously circulated) which provided an evaluation (also previously circulated) of the second year of operation of the Good Friends scheme.

It was stated that the Good Friends Scheme was an initiative established by One Darlington Partnership in 2013 and funded by public sector partners to enable residents of Darlington to support elderly and vulnerable neighbours.

Reference was made to the supporting agencies that had again provided the necessary funding for the second year of the project which is an excellent example of partnership working with 852 Good Friends currently supporting 601 elderly and vulnerable people in the community.

Particular reference was made to building strong communities, an essential element of a thriving Darlington and a key feature of One Darlington Perfectly Placed. Members

were informed that the Good Friends Project had been a response to diminishing central government funding of the public sector as strong communities are less likely to make expensive demands on the Council or other statutory services.

It was also pleasing to note that the Project had won the Local Government Commission's Award for the best Health and Social Care project 2015 which was an accolade for Good Friends, the Partnership and the many volunteers who helped to make the project so successful to the benefit of Darlington and its most vulnerable citizens.

Discussion ensued on the work undertaken by two key worker; referrals received from agencies and the use of the NHS logo making a difference to the Project.

Concerns were raised over possible abuse of the system and the need to ensure all volunteers were matched and active.

RESOLVED – That the Good Friends Evaluation Report be noted.

HP70. BETTER HEALTH PROGRAMME – The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) detailing proposals on the establishment of a Joint Health Scrutiny Committee under the provision of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 involving all local authorities affected by the Better Health Programme (BHP) and any associated service review proposals.

It was stated that the BHP was delivered by the six relevant Durham and Tees Valley area Clinical Commissioning Group's in partnership and engagement work was increasing with the aim of consulting on a range of proposals from November 2016.

It was requested that the Terms of Reference of the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee be approved and three Members of this Scrutiny be nominated to serve on that Joint Committee.

RESOLVED – (a) That the report be noted.

(b) That the Terms of Reference and membership of the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee be agreed in principle.

(c) That Councillors Wendy Newall, Jan Taylor and Heather Scott be nominated to serve on the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee.

HP71. 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.

Councillors Newall and Mrs Scott advised Scrutiny that the items considered were Better Health Programme; Sustainability and Transformation Plan; Joint Health and Social Care Learning Disability Self-Assessment Framework 2015; Commissioning

Intentions and Clinical Commissioning Group Annual Operation Plan 2016/17; Healthy New Towns; Joint Strategic Needs Assessment; and Better Care Fund 2016.

Concerns were expressed around CCG Commissioning with many services being regionally operated as opposed to local services.

RESOLVED –That, Members look forward to receiving an update of the work of the Health and Well Being Board at the next meeting of Scrutiny Committee.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS – The representative from TEWV advised Scrutiny that Mr Colin Martin had been appointed Chief Executive of the Trust and Mr Patrick Scott was the new Director of Operations for Durham and Darlington.