

HEALTH AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14 June 2017

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

APOLOGIES – Councillors Nutt and Regan; Ali Wilson, Chief Officer, Karen Hawkins, Director of Commissioning and Transformation, Andrea Jones, Chair, and Katie McLeod, Head of Strategy and Commissioning Darlington, Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG); Gillian Curry, Communications Manager, County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust (CDDFT); and Michelle Thompson, Healthwatch Darlington. (8)

ABSENT – Councillor I Haszeldine.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – (0)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Miriam Davidson, Director of Public Health, Neil Bowerbank, Head of Strategy, Performance and Communications and Karen Graves, Democratic Officer. (4)

EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES – Sue Jacques, Chief Executive, County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust. (1)

HP1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations reported at the meeting.

HP2. TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS – RESOLVED – That meetings of this Committee be held at 9.30am on those dates as agreed on the calendar of meetings by Cabinet at Minute C133/Mar/17.

HP3. MINUTES – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meetings of this Scrutiny Committee held on 19 April and 3 May 2017.

RESOLVED – That, with the deletion of Councillor Donoghue in the list of apologies received for 19 April, the Minutes be agreed as correct records.

HP4. MATTERS ARISING – There were no matters arising.

HP5. COUNTY DURHAM AND DARLINGTON FOUNDATION TRUST – (1) MATERNITY SERVICES – The Chief Executive, County Durham and Darlington Trust gave a PowerPoint presentation on Maternity Services following concerns raised around that service during 2016.

Details were provided of the actions taken and progress against those actions, which included the establishment of a clinical governance meeting called SAGE (safeguarding, assurance, governance and education) attended by nurses, midwives, students, trainees and medical staff who worked together to develop the service.

Members were pleased to note that behaviours and cultures had improved within Maternity Services following detailed work over the past twelve months with Edgecumbe Consultancy who were no longer engaged with the Trust.

Members welcomed the work of the Leadership Team, comprising Head of Midwifery, Medical Clinical Leads, Acute and Community Matrons and Ward Managers to complete a strategic leadership programme.

The Chief Executive of the Trust also clarified the position with local media following publication of a misleading article in which it was reported that changes were to be made to Maternity Services. Members were informed that the Chief Executive and the Trusts Communications Team had a meeting with the relevant editor and journalist who accepted the views of the Trust and agreed a way forward for future reporting including double checking on a story before going to print.

Members noted that the North East has work force pressures in some clinical services, including paediatrics, and collaborative working had been considered for these areas with patient safety at the forefront of any service. It was also noted that clinical teams had raised concerns and two consultants had difficulties in acting down which is usually requested due to a shortage or absence of junior staff.

Reference was made to a number of proposals within the draft Sustainable Transformation Programme for both Maternity and Paediatric services which would be shared with the Clinical Commissioning Group and other partners in due course. The Chief Executive reiterated that the main objective was to keep all services safe and to act responsibly at all times.

Discussion ensued on the lack of information in relation to STP's and the need to ensure Maternity Services were safe at the Trust. Members noted that the most fragile service in the north east was paediatrics which was needed to operate a maternity service.

Healthwatch Darlington raised concerns relating to staff attitude towards patients, dismissive pain relief plans and consultants differing views. HWD also reported that it was to undertake a survey relating to Maternity Services which would be launched 21 June 2017 and target services users within the last twelve months.

The Director of Public Health was assured that all teams attended SAGE meetings and that a quality surveillance system was in operation involving full recourse analysis with all clinical staff. It was also reassuring to know that patients had the opportunity to be involved in this process.

RESOLVED – (a) That the thanks of this Scrutiny Committee be extended to the Chief Executive of County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust for her informative presentation.

(b) That it be noted that this Scrutiny Committee wants paediatrics, maternity and accident and emergency services to remain in Darlington.

(2) FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE – COUNTY DURHAM AND DARLINGTON FOUNDATION TRUST - The Chief Executive, County Durham and Darlington Trust gave a further PowerPoint presentation on the Financial Performance of County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust and in doing so were advised that 2016/17 had ended ahead of financial plan with an actual surplus of £11.499m as opposed to a planned surplus of £6.557m

Members were pleased to note that the Trust was on track at Month 2 and the Board and Governors had approved the plan.

Particular reference was made to a 'leaked' e-mail to the media which had suggested that staff would not be paid due to lack of funds, the Chief Executive reported that this was an internal issue and appropriate action had been taken to reassure staff that this was not the case and there would not be a circumstance in which employees did not get paid.

Scrutiny Committee noted that the Trust had accessed over £15m from the Strategic Transformation Fund as it had achieved the financial control total and access standards for Accident and Emergency, Cancer and Referral to Treatment (RTT).

Particular reference was made to Synchronicity Care Limited (SCL), a non-clinical company wholly owned by the Trust, containing services the Trust would buy from. It was stated that SCL's results were grouped with CDDFT's and it was beneficial to separate clinical and non-clinical services. Services included procurement which was now undertaken by admin staff and not nurses and domestic services.

RESOLVED – (a) That the thanks of this Scrutiny Committee be extended to the Chief Executive of County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust for her informative presentation.

(3) PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS 2016/17 – Members were pleased to note that the Trust was performing well and had had an excellent year achieving many targets including cancer, 18 weeks RTT and decreased incidences of C Diff.

Reference was made to Perfect Month held in March and Members noted that staff were working together to deliver safe care for every patient in the right place at the right time.

Members were pleased to note that the new Operating Theatres had been completed and were now the best in the North East.

RESOLVED — That the thanks of this Scrutiny Committee be extended to the Chief Executive of County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust for her informative presentation.

HP6. WORK PROGRAMME - The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to this Scrutiny Committee's work programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2017/18.

Members previously agreed a revision to the work programme to enable the Committee to analyse information for each topic area aligning it to the eight outcomes and the three conditions in the Sustainable Community Strategy and relevant performance indicators from the Performance Management Framework.

There was discussion on the current lack of information relating to the Sustainable Transformation Plan and the Chair advised that as Suicide Prevention was being undertaken at Tees Valley level, a brief update could be given to a future Scrutiny.

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

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

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.

Councillor Scott advised Members that issues considered by the Board in April included the Children and Young People Plan 2017/22; Life Expectancy Mortality Data for Tees Valley; Health and Well Being Plan Development; Healthwatch Darlington; and Health and Well Being Board Governance Review.

The next meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board was scheduled for 22 June 2017.

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

HP8. SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2017/18 – With the prior approval of the Chair to the matter being treated as urgent to enable Scrutiny to be advised of the proposed indicators at the earliest possible opportunity, the Head of Strategy, Performance and Communication submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to a number of proposed performance indicators which could be monitored by this Scrutiny Committee during 2017/18 and which might help to inform its work programme.

It was reported that the draft indicators were based on those being monitored by the Chief Executive and would be reported to Scrutiny on a quarterly basis, with the

relevant Assistant Directors attending meetings to update Members and answer any questions.

Members requested that information relating to the Social Fund, the £100k which had been retained to help develop new initiatives with the Voluntary Sector, Healthwatch Darlington and Citizen's Advice Bureau be included within the indicators.

The Director of Public Health advised Scrutiny that the majority of Performance Indicators for this Scrutiny Committee reflected the Council's interest and investment and that there were many more PI's, which had been worked through since 2013, reported to Public Health England.

RESOLVED – That the report be received and that any further comments or suggestions from Members in relation to the proposed performance indicators be forwarded to Officers.