

ADULTS AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

3rd February, 2015

PRESENT – Councillor Thistlethwaite (in the Chair); Councillors Harman, D. Jones, Kelley, Lister and S. Richmond (6)

APOLOGIES – Councillors Culley, Hutchinson, Knowles and York (4)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor Newall

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Ann Workman, Assistant Director, Adult Social Care, Sharon Raine, Head of Organisational Planning and Debbie Spence, Business Manager, Organisational Planning.

AH35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

AH36- MINUTES – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of meetings of this Scrutiny Committee held on 16th December, 2014 and 15th January, 2015.

The Chair of the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee updated Members on some background information she had obtained in relation to the initiative by NHS England to pay GP practices an achievement payment of £55.00 per additional patient they diagnosed with dementia, based on the net increase in the numbers on the dementia register at the end of March 2015, compared with the end of September, 2014. The funding was for diagnosis and not for further referral or treatment. The scheme had commenced on 1st October, 2014 and will conclude on 31st March, 2015

It was reported that a lot of adverse criticism to the incentive had been received from both clinicians and patient groups and that some practices in the south had agreed to donate any funding received to local dementia charities.

In Darlington, eight of the eleven practices had signed up to the initiative and it was reported that a partner in one of the GP practices in Darlington that had not signed up, was of the view that early diagnosis of dementia was important, however, did not feel that the cash incentive scheme was the best option. System One, which all GP practices in the Borough had, alerted GP's when 'at risk' patients over 60 with a long-term condition or patients over 75 attended the surgery and that there was an on-line questionnaire to assist with diagnosis.

It was also reported that there would be an evaluation of the scheme at the end of March and that, once the results of the evaluation were known, it was suggested that a joint piece of work could be undertaken by the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee and this Scrutiny Committee to see how the scheme had worked in Darlington and how GP practices across the Clinical Commissioning Groups would work together in the future to develop services and care packages for patients on their registers which was one of the things the scheme hoped to achieve.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved as correct records.

AH37. THE CARE ACT – AN UPDATE ON PROGRESS – The Director of Commissioning submitted a report (previously circulated) advising Members of the work undertaken to date in relation to the implementation of the Care Act which would come into effect on 1st April, 2015.

It was reported that, although good progress had been made both locally and regionally, the Care Act presented all Local Authorities with a complex and demanding project plan that was currently working with a significant number of unknowns.

The submitted report outlined those major challenges faced and those areas where demand on capacity might be following its implementation; work done both locally and regionally to date, together with specific updates on the two work-streams which this Scrutiny Committee had previously requested an interest in becoming involved with in relation to the workforce and finance; and the current position in relation to the consultation on the Care Cap which would give the Council an opportunity to feedback on the funding challenges, which had been significantly delayed.

Particular reference was made to the requirement on this Council to provide information and advice to all its residents, whether or not they had an eligible care need or were known to the Authority in order to aid the prevention agenda and ensure that residents were considering their future care needs long before the need for care arose and the specific work being undertaken by it and its partners to be equipped to provide advice services and signposting to residents.

RESOLVED – That the report be received and further updates be provided as, and when, appropriate.

AH38. RIACT/REABLEMENT PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS – The Director of Commissioning submitted a report (previously circulated) providing Members with further detailed information, as requested, in relation to the performance of the RIACT and Reablement service, following the presentation of Quarter 2 performance information.

The submitted report outlined the seven performance indicators which were in place to monitor the performance of the RIACT and Reablement Service, which consisted of a mixture of national and local indicators and it was reported that data against six of these seven indicators was recorded monthly via the Council's Performance Management Framework with one being reported annually.

Members had previously expressed concern that the performance against a number of the indicators had declined in the first half of the 2014/15 financial year and the submitted report addressed the possible reasons for this decline which included changed governance arrangements; changes to the Council's Eligibility Criteria; Universal Offer rather than targeted approach; access to intermediate beds; staff sickness levels; Domiciliary Care Capacity; and the reduction in Strategic Resilience Funding.

Discussion ensued on the reasons why performance may have declined and specific reference was made to access to intermediate beds which, because of one of the main providers was currently experiencing significant quality issues, had resulted in increased spot purchase requirements; Domiciliary Care capacity; and changed governance arrangements.

Members were also advised of a detailed review of the RIACT and Reablement service which was to be commissioned and which would focus on the system and process changes required to ensure that performance levels returned to those seen previously.

RESOLVED – That the current situation be noted and that a further report, including the most recent performance management information and the establishment of RIACT Plus, be submitted to the next ordinary meeting of this Scrutiny Committee scheduled for 31st March, 2015.

AH39. MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM – UPDATE – The Assistant Director, Adult Social Care gave a presentation on the development of the Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs) in Darlington.

It was reported that the Teams, which comprised staff from GP surgeries, Darlington Memorial Hospital, community and mental health staff, social workers and the voluntary sector were working jointly together with patients to ensure that they received the right help and support when needed and worked more in the community to increase the speed of treatments, thereby reducing care home admissions and hospital admissions and visits.

The presentation covered initial achievements; areas currently being worked on and the positive work and responses during the first three months of operation; work to be undertaken during the second phase of implementation and the future plans for the next three months.

Discussion ensued on the possible future involvement of the Tees, Esk and Wear Valley Foundation Trust and pharmacy services within the Teams; the appointment of a new Manager within the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub; the use of performance information to demonstrate the success of the Team in reducing hospital and care homes admissions; and the funding from the Better Care Fund to support the integrated service.

RESOLVED – That the current position be noted and that a further report be submitted to the next meeting of this Scrutiny Committee scheduled for 31st march, 2015.

AH40. WORK PROGRAMME – 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.

The submitted report outlined those areas where this Scrutiny Committee had previously identified it would like to focus its work and also emphasised that the work programme was a rolling programme and any Member of this Scrutiny Committee could request an item to be included provided that a Quad of Aims had been submitted to ensure that it contributed to the strategic aims of the Council.

The Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee reported that that Scrutiny Committee had completed its work in relation to young carers and that the report would be considered at its next meeting scheduled for 23rd February, 2015 and could be brought to this Scrutiny Committee for information.

RESOLVED – That the current status of the work programme be noted.