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**OVERVIEW OF HEALTH AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

**Work Programme 2015/16**

2. We have given consideration to the Work Programme for this Committee for the Municipal Year 2015/16 and possible review topics, the work programme is a rolling work programme and items can be added as necessary.

**Health and Well Being Board**

3. The Committee discussed the work of the Board in particular the Annual Reports of Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group and the Director of Public Health; and the need for the continuation of funding for the specialist cancer advice and information support service based within Darlington Citizens Advice Bureau. It was also stated that there were several items relating to Adults and Housing discussed at the meeting.

**New Models of Care – Outcomes from the Health and Care Summit**

4. Scrutiny was informed about the development of potential new models of care and the outcomes from Darlington's Health and Care summit held on 11 June.
5. Members were informed that Darlington's new model of care strategy was based around a partnership between commissioners and providers, a commitment to manage changes carefully, a shift of resources away from acute services towards community provision and better joined up services to improve outcomes for people and to remove waste in the system.
6. Members were pleased to note that the strategy recognises the importance of individual responsibility for health.
7. Five key partners in Darlington, the Local Authority, the Clinical Commissioning Group, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust and Primary Healthcare Darlington have agreed a strategic plan for Darlington.
8. The Health and Care Summit was attended by around 130 health and care professionals. Those attending received updates on the work in progress and heard presentations from acknowledged experts on best practice.

9. Attendees were asked for their views on the proposals for new models of care and 68 completed a short questionnaire commenting on the vision for Darlington as outlined and discussed at the event.
10. The main findings were that confidence is high. It was felt there were several important elements necessary to deliver the vision including self-management provision of care hubs, and the availability of consultants, pharmacists and diagnostics 24/7. The event was successful in promoting understanding and enthusiasm although there was recognition that some sectors were not well represented so further work is needed to ensure that the new models of care discussions take place in other fora.

### **Healthwatch/CCG Long Term Conditions and Older People Event Feedback**

11. We received a report detailing the feedback received from an engagement event on the subject of 'Destination Darlington a Roadmap to 2020 – Long Term Conditions and Older People' held on 20 May.
12. The event was held to explore Long Term Conditions and Older People and attracted around 40 participants including members of the public and various organisations. The Event featured expert speakers on key topics, including Destination Darlington and the Voluntary and Community Sector working with Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group and the Council.
13. Great emphasis was given to the workshops, at which participants held in depth discussions to develop and identify issues, concerns, strengths and opportunities; and activities for the purpose of workshop feedback.
14. The information from the event will be used by the CCG as part of their commissioning decisions moving forward.

### **Healthy Darlington**

15. Scrutiny received a presentation outlining the functions of the Healthy Darlington Hub located within the Dolphin Centre since October 2014.
16. The Hub is led by a team of trained specialists in behaviour change and is a single point of contact for individuals who wish to participate in a healthier lifestyle.
17. Healthy Darlington is open seven days a week and available for both walk-in clients and medical practitioner referrals making the most of modern technology and communication methods.
18. Members were pleased to note that there had been 10,156 participants overall and that 863 Hub Clients had received over 2000 hours of 1:1 contact time.
19. The Committee was informed of several case studies all of which highlighted the benefits gained by clients who had received behaviour change support.

20. Members were advised that the Healthy Darlington Hub was crucial in improving those indicators in the Darlington's Health Profiles which are worse than the England average.
21. Members were pleased to note the very positive impact that the Healthy Darlington Hub has had and in particular welcomed the proposal that specific work will be done with residents who have diabetes. Members are keen that the work of Healthy Darlington Hub is advertised as widely as possible.

### **Director of Public Health – Annual Report 2014 – A Shared Agenda**

22. We received the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2014 and in doing so noted the partnership working necessary to tackle the causes of health inequalities and to help residents who experience disadvantage over the course of their lifetime.
23. Members were informed of the link between health inequalities and social inequalities and how action was needed across all the wider social determinants of health e.g. housing, education, employment, poverty. The social determinants are the conditions in which people in Darlington are 'born, grow, live, work and age'.
24. The Council Public Health Team is working closely with Council departments, NHS and other public sector partners, community and voluntary partners and the private sector to shape local services and to tackle health differences in communities.
25. Members were reminded that they played a key role in the promotion of healthy life styles as they know their Wards and their residents.
26. Scrutiny was shocked to learn that many cancers were diagnosed at Accident and Emergency due, in part, to residents reluctance to present at their GP surgeries with early symptoms.
27. We were pleased to note that there would be a focus on smoking cessation in pregnant women through the Baby Clear programme, a Tees Valley Oral Health Strategy was to be developed and key lines of enquiry were to be shared with partners regarding child obesity and what could be done to prevent this.
28. There was real concern to learn that Government funding to Darlington Public Health is to be reduced by £0.5m – a significant amount of the overall budget.

### **Director of Public Health – Health Profiles 2015**

29. The Director of Public Health gave Members a presentation on the key messages contained in the Darlington Health Profile 2015 which shows how the health of Darlington residents compares with that of the region and the rest of England.
30. The health of people in Darlington is variable compared with the England average. Deprivation is higher than average and it is of real concern to Members that around

20.6 per cent of children are living in poverty.

31. Although life expectancy for both men and women has increased overall there still remains a major variation of 11.8 years and women 9.4 years between the most deprived and least deprived areas of Darlington.
32. Scrutiny noted that smoking prevalence is decreasing with Darlington having a rate lower than the regional rate, 23 per cent of adults in Darlington are estimated to be obese, and the rate of hospital admissions due to alcohol specific conditions (under 18 years of age) and substance misuse (15 – 24 years) in Darlington are higher than the regional rates and significantly higher than the England rates.
33. Members were pleased to note that the under-18 conception rate in Darlington continues to decline and is now similar to the England rate.
34. Priorities in Darlington include stopping smoking in pregnancy, production of a Darlington Suicide Prevention Plan, improving the health and wellbeing of children and young people in Darlington by utilising opportunities offered through the implementation of a 0-19 year pathway and continuing to develop collaboration and support with all partners to tackle health inequalities through action on the wider social determinants of health.

**Councillor Wendy Newall**  
**Chair of the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee**