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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.

**Proposal to Consult on the Future Configuration of Inpatient Wards for Older People with Organic Mental Illness in County Durham and Darlington**

3. Members received a report and presentation from Tees Esk and Wear Valley Foundation Trust (TEWV) on proposals for the future configuration and location of inpatient wards which serve residents in County Durham and Darlington who are suffering from organic mental illness (dementia).
4. Members considered the three options proposed for the location of organic beds and the results of the evaluation, which outlined the benefits and disadvantages for service users and their families, undertaken to ensure the service met the needs of people with dementia. Option One; the preferred option of the Clinicians will have no real impact on Darlington residents.
5. A twelve week consultation process is to be undertaken from 4 January to 28 March 2016 with existing service users, staff directly impacted, local people and stakeholders on the location of assessment and treatment beds for older people who have a dementia in County Durham and Darlington. Views and feedback will be considered by the CCGs and TEWV and a decision on the preferred option is to be made once the feedback gathered through the consultation process has been considered and reviewed by the local authorities' Health Scrutiny Committee and shared with the public.
6. There will be a public meeting at the Dolphin Centre on Thursday, 25 February from 10.00am to 12 noon which will be attended by Members of this Committee following which we will submit our response.

### **Quality Accounts – Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys Foundation Trust (TEWV)**

7. Members met with the Trust to give consideration to the Trust's Quality Accounts to enable Members to have a better understanding and knowledge of performance when submitting a Final commentary on the Quality Accounts at the end of each Municipal Year.
8. We received the Quarter 2 Performance Report which provided an update on progress against the four key quality priorities for the 2015/16 Quality Account as well as performance against the agreed quality metrics, national targets and regulatory requirements and mandatory indicators.
9. The Community Mental Health Survey 2015 had achieved a 29 per cent response rate and the results had been benchmarked against 55 other NHS Mental Health Trusts by the Quality Care Commission. The Trust had performed above what was expected in four areas and the areas identified for greatest improvement had not scored worse than other Trusts.

### **Quality Accounts – County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust (CDDFT)**

10. Members met with the Trust to give consideration to the Trusts' Quality Accounts to enable Members to have a better understanding and knowledge of performance when submitting a Final commentary on the Quality Accounts at the end of each Municipal Year.
11. The Trust's representative advised Members that there were three quality domains within the Quality Accounts, namely Patient Safety, Clinical Efficiency and Effectiveness and Patient Experience.
12. Members noted the progress against the three quality priorities for the 2015/16 Quality Account and performance against national targets, regulatory requirements and mandatory indicators.
13. Scrutiny also noted that the format of the Quality Accounts document was to be amended by moving the established priorities to an Appendix, although they would still be monitored, with more major priorities being in the body of the Quality Account which would make easier reading.

### **Darlington's Long Term Conditions Collaborative**

14. Scrutiny received a progress report of Darlington's Long Term Conditions Collaborative (DLTCC) a multi-agency approach formed as part of the Better Care Fund, to improve the journey for people living with Darlington's most prevalent multiple chronic long term health conditions.
15. A Rapid Process Improvement Workshop for the Breathlessness pathway was held in October 2015 for staff of the participating organisations with experience in diseases that cause breathlessness. Members were pleased to note that this

included patient representation.

16. An implementation plan has been drawn up for the improvements which runs until October 2016 and forms the first part of the delivery plan for Long Term Conditions.
17. Members were also pleased to note that included in the improvement areas were the introduction of a Key Worker to help meet social need; the actions proposed to streamline discharge from services and transfer of care; the mental health of people with Long Term Conditions associated with Breathlessness; and self-management support. We will continue to monitor progress of the implementation plan.

### **Darlington Partnership Update**

18. We received a report on the progress of Darlington Partnership since November 2014 ensuring that the projects it had established continued to deliver effectively.
19. Since Board agreement, in September 2011, the focus has been on a limited number of identified Action Priorities in order to instigate actions which visibly addressed issues facing Darlington.
20. Members were informed of the Partnerships successful and in some cases, award winning, projects such as the Foundation for Jobs launched to tackle youth unemployment; the Good Friends scheme which supports elderly residents; Darlington which helps local employers with their corporate responsibilities in addressing the needs of local communities; and the One Darlington Magazine.
21. We particularly welcomed the establishment of the Financial Inclusion Group and the online Advice Network to combat poverty and the significant issue of financial inclusion for vulnerable residents in Darlington such as working people on low incomes.
22. The Darlington Partnership has agreed to establish an annual 'Ingenious Fair' which is a new brand to attract inward investment. A major launch is planned for the Summer which will give local manufacturers an opportunity to show case what they do and will also involve schools and young people.
23. Members also noted that nominations for the Best of Darlington have opened this month with a new category of Public Sector Hero being announced. Nominations can be made online and the Ceremony will be held on 6 May 2016.

### **Veterans and Armed Forces**

24. Darlington Borough Council has made a commitment to support work that takes place in partnership to support the Armed Forces and the delivery of the Community Covenant.

25. Scrutiny noted that the Council continues to support delivery of the North East Regional Scrutiny work in relation to the Health Needs of Veterans. The Council also works closely with the Tees Valley Forum to understand the issues faced by both serving armed forces personnel and veterans. In Darlington we are fulfilling our obligations to ensure that members of the armed forces and veterans can access services and do not face any barriers to this.
26. Members noted that the Tees Valley Forum has been exploring the potential benefits of mutual co-operation across health, housing, education, Job Centre Plus, Military Charities and Veterans Associations to support and improve the health and well-being of members of the armed forces community.

### **Eye Health Review**

27. Several Members of Scrutiny attended a meeting of the Review Group, held at Vane House Resource Centre, alongside representatives from GOLD, Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, Healthwatch Darlington, Darlington Social Club for the Blind and Royal National Institute of Blind People.
28. The purpose of the meeting was to gain an understanding of the impact of poor eye health on individuals of all ages, establish what eye issues affect the residents of Darlington and ascertain what Pathways of Care for sight loss and eye conditions are available for residents of the Borough.
29. The Group are keen to promote regular eye tests to ensure treatable eye conditions are detected early and that residents have information about eye conditions which are avoidable. We are working on a publicity project to get across these very important messages on conditions which can seriously affect quality of life.
30. We hope to formulate our conclusions and recommendations of the Review Group in the near future.

### **Medium Term Financial Plan**

31. As with all other Scrutiny Committees, we received a report in relation to the Medium Term Financial Plan which had been considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 1 December 2015.
32. The report sets out the two-stage approach to revising the MTFP and we noted that the first stage was to set the Council Tax for 2016/17, along with the fees and charges and that the second stage, to be considered by Cabinet in February, would be to further revise the MTFP, following receipt of the Local Government Finance Settlement.

33. Members acknowledged that there were no specific charges relating to Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee, however agreed to recommend to the Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee that the charges within the MTFP were appropriate.

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