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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 Social Care Delivery Plan – Better Care Fund**

3. The Scrutiny Committee received a progress report on 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. Members were pleased to note that a new element of the project was developing the prevention agenda offering non medical interventions through 'social prescribing'.
4. Members noted that the submission had been made, and approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board for adoption, ahead of the final deadline of 25 April and that a pooling agreement (s75) was in preparation in respect of the fund which must be in place by 30 June.
5. Members noted this was 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. The fund must also be deployed in line with eight national policy requirements, all of which were met by the Council.
6. The plan fits within Darlington's longer-term health and social care transformation Vision 2020 and aligns with the Foundation Trusts' operational plans and the One Darlington community strategy objectives.

## **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) 2016**

7. Members received an update on the completed JSNA, an easily accessible internet based source of information for use by staff, partner organisations and the general public.
8. Scrutiny was advised 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.
9. The JSNA Core Dataset, drawn from national and local validated sources, had been used as the basis for the data content with additional local data providing a comprehensive picture for the Borough. 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.

## **Good Friends Project**

10. Members received an evaluation report of the second year of operation of the Good Friends scheme, an initiative established by One Darlington Partnership in 2013, funded by public sector partners to enable residents of Darlington to support elderly and vulnerable neighbours.
11. Members were pleased to note that the supporting agencies had again provided the necessary funding for the second year of the project which is an excellent example of partnership working. Currently there are 852 Good Friends supporting 601 elderly and vulnerable people in the community.
12. Building strong communities is an essential element of a thriving Darlington and a key feature of One Darlington Perfectly Placed. 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.
13. 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.

## **Better Health Programme – Joint Health Scrutiny Committee**

14. We received a report 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 and any associated service review proposals.

15. It was also requested that three Members of this Scrutiny be nominated to serve on the Joint Committee.
16. The BHP is delivered by the six relevant Durham and Tees Valley area CCG's in partnership and engagement work is increasing with the aim of consulting on a range of proposals from November 2016.
17. Scrutiny agreed in principle the Terms of Reference of the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee and nominated the Chair and Vice-Chair and Councillor H Scott, of this Scrutiny Committee, to be Darlington's representatives.

### **Quality Accounts – County Durham and Darlington and Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys Foundation Trusts**

18. Scrutiny considered the Quality Accounts 2015/16 of both County Durham and Darlington and Tees Esk and Wear Valleys Foundation Trusts to enable the Committee to formulate commentaries for inclusion in the Trusts' Quality Accounts 2015/16.
19. Members of this Committee have also attended Stakeholder events with Officers from both Foundation Trusts as well as receiving regular performance reports from both Trusts.

### **Medium Term Financial Plan**

20. We have had two special meetings to look at, in detail, the proposals contained in Phase 2 of the next round of spending reductions as detailed within the Medium Term Financial Plan 2016/17 – 2019/20 which are specifically under the remit of our Scrutiny Committee. In considering the proposals, we also considered the impact assessments in relation to the proposed reductions in the core offer and those specific areas which it was proposed to include in the Futures Fund.
21. In addition, we also established Task and Finish Groups to look in detail at two specific areas which were included within the reductions to the core offer namely – Drug and Alcohol Team and Substance Misuse and the Social Fund Budget.
22. We held a special meeting of our Committee on 12 May 2016 and taking into account all the discussions we have had at our meetings, will formulate a response on behalf of our Scrutiny Committee which will be submitted to a special meeting of Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee scheduled for 26 May 2016, as part of the consultation exercise.

### **Mental Health Services for Older People**

23. We held a special meeting of our Committee on 12 May 2016 to give consideration to the feedback received via the consultation for the location and configuration of inpatient assessment and treatment beds for dementia patients.

24. The aim of Tees Esk and Wear Valleys Foundation Trust (TEWV) was to ensure that people were not staying in hospital for longer than necessary and that they received the care and specialist input needed as quickly as possible. In particular, the focus had been on providing the appropriate community support so that patients could move from being in hospital to accessing a range of community services.
25. Since 2011 TEWV has worked to improve rehabilitation services resulting in a reduction in the need for bed based services and the proposal was to retain 30 inpatient beds over two wards at Auckland Park Hospital, Bishop Auckland, as opposed to the current three wards at Auckland Park Hospital, Lanchester Road Hospital and Bowes Lyon Unit, Lanchester Road Hospital Durham.

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