
OVERVIEW OF HEALTH AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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.

Medium Term Financial Plan 2016/16 to 2019/20 (MTFP)

3. We have scrutinised the proposals contained within the MTFP in relation to those areas within our remit. Members raised particular concerns over various proposals and in doing so established two Task and Finish Review Groups to look at the impact of the proposals on the Drug and Alcohol Team (DAAT) and the Strategic Grants and Social Fund.
4. Although Members had significant concerns around both proposals Scrutiny regrettably accepted the findings of the Task and Finish Review Groups.
5. Members will continue to monitor the effect of all the proposals within its remit, once they are implemented.

County Durham Community Foundation (CDCF)

6. Members received a Presentation by the Chief Executive of CDCF, a charitable grant-making organisation, established in 1995 to benefit County Durham and Darlington.
7. The overall aim of CDCF was to strengthen local communities across County Durham and Darlington and its vision is to bring people together to achieve their potential, fulfil their aspirations and build thriving communities.
8. CDCF promotes lasting charitable giving by bringing together donors with their chosen causes, through well targeted grants that make a genuine difference to the lives of local people.
9. The Chief Executive of CDCF outlined where the Foundation's money came from and the grants awarded up to the end of 2014. Members also noted the grants awarded to Darlington during the period 2011/12 to 2015/16 and the number of Darlington applications received, approved, rejected and withdrawn during 2014/15.

Members noted that the level of grant application from Darlington was low and CDCF will be meeting with voluntary organisations to discuss the issues and barriers hopefully more voluntary organisations in Darlington will be encouraged to apply for funding and be successful.

Winter Debrief and Forward View

10. Members received a Presentation from the Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) outlining Winter Resilience Schemes 2015/16.
11. Scrutiny noted that the overall purpose of the Winter Resilience Schemes was to increase patient flow through Emergency Departments and improve efficiencies at each of the hospital sites.
12. Schemes funded by County Durham and Darlington System Resilience Group winter monies 2015/16 included Accident and Emergency Attendances and Bed Statistics; Seven Schemes implemented in the Emergency Department, four schemes implemented by General Practices, four schemes implemented by Social Services and three schemes implemented by the Police Authority.
13. Scrutiny noted that each provider had been asked to evaluate its scheme(s) during April 2016 and the summary and recommendation were discussed at a June meeting of the System Resilience Group

General Practice Forward View

14. Scrutiny received a report from the Assistant Chief Officer, Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group outlining the content of the NHS England Publication, General Practice Forward View (GPFV) April 2016.
15. Details included the year on year increase on investment in general practice, building up to an extra £2.4 billion a year investment by 2020/21, alongside a further £500 million focused on stabilising and transforming general practice.
16. The GPFV is in line with the vision of NHS England's Five Year Forward View and highlights significant investment in general practice and the need to drive change to provide services that are better for patients through increased investment and additional support for practices.

Maternity Services

17. The Chief Executive and Medical Director at County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust (CDDFT) attended Scrutiny Committee to discuss with Members their concerns regarding Maternity Services at Darlington Memorial Hospital following the articles in the Press regarding the recent external review.
18. Members were pleased to note the assurances that there were no problems concerning patients' safety and the feedback from the friends and family test

showed that the service is well thought of by users.

19. Members will monitor the situation and have requested that this matter will be brought back to Committee once the interim arrangements have been completed.

Urgent Care

20. Members were very disappointed and frustrated to learn that there is a distinct lack of progress on the long awaited co-location of A&E and Urgent Care at DMH. For some time there has been a proposal to invest £5m to co-locate. Members have supported this project from the beginning and have always been assured that this would go ahead.
21. We are now informed that there will be a drastic reduction in investment from £5m to £0.5m and this funding is dependent upon an application to the Primary Care Transformation Fund (Estates and Technology).
22. Members will monitor this situation very closely to see what impact it will have on Darlington residents and people from the surrounding area.

Councillor Wendy Newall
Chair of the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee