
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 2017/18

2. We have given consideration to the Work Programme for this Committee for the Municipal Year 2017/18 and possible review topics. The work programme is a rolling work programme and items can be added as necessary.

Maternity Services – County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust

3. Following an article in the press regarding contingency plans for changes to the provision of Maternity Services Members had real concerns about Maternity Services at Darlington Memorial Hospital (DMH) and how this could potentially impact on the Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP). recommendations.
4. Members were pleased to welcome Sue Jacques, Chief Executive of County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust (CDDFT) who came to the Scrutiny Committee meeting to speak to the matter, answer Members questions and hopefully give us a better understanding of the situation. She began by advising that the article was misleading and following a meeting the matter had been resolved with the press.
5. The Chief Executive gave a presentation which outlined the actions arising from the external review in 2016 when concerns were raised about Maternity Services and the progress against these actions. A Clinical governance group has been established called SAGE (safeguarding, assurance, governance and education) This is attended by Maternity and Paediatric nurses, midwives, students, trainees and medical staff who all contribute and work together to develop and improve the service.
6. Following the service review there were also concerns about cultural, behavioural and relationship differences in the department. The Trust has been working with Edgecombe Consultancy on a new framework and progress has been made. For example case reviews are well attended and inclusive. They provide a forum for discussion not only on good practice but on risk, learning and development. In addition a new Leadership Team which includes the Head of Midwifery, medical clinical leads, acute and community matrons and ward managers are working together to complete a strategic leadership programme.

7. Scrutiny Committee was also informed that the North East has work force pressures in some clinical services, including paediatrics, and collaborative working had been considered for these areas with patient safety at the forefront of any service.
8. Members were pleased to note the progress which has been made and were, to some extent, reassured on these issues. However, along with many of our residents we remain very concerned about the future of consultant led Maternity and Paediatric Services at DMH.

Financial Position – County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust

9. The Scrutiny Committee also received a Presentation relating to the Financial Performance of County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust and in doing so was pleased to note that 2016/17 The Trust had ended ahead of financial plan with an actual surplus of £11.499m as opposed to a planned surplus of £6.557m.
10. In relation to a 'leaked' e-mail to the press which had suggested that staff would not be paid due to lack of funds, the Chief Executive reported that despite operating in challenging financial times the Trust had achieved a surplus. This is an internal matter and appropriate action has been taken to reassure staff that this was not the case and there would not be a circumstance in which employees did not get paid.
11. Scrutiny Committee noted that the Trust had accessed over £15m from the Strategic Transformation Fund as it had achieved the financial control total and access standards for Accident and Emergency, Cancer and Referral to Treatment (RTT).

Performance Highlights 2016/17

12. Scrutiny Committee were pleased to note that the Trust was performing well and had had an excellent year achieving many targets including cancer, 18 weeks RTT and decreased incidence of C Diff.
13. Perfect Month was held in March and staff were working together to deliver safe care for every patient in the right place at the right time.

Year-End Performance and 2017/18 Indicators

14. Members received a report for consideration detailing proposed Council Performance Indicators for 2017/18 for Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee to help inform our work plan and schedule of dates at which performance updates would be received. We were requested to consider if we felt that the indicators were relevant and the correct ones for us to be monitoring.
15. Members requested that information relating to the Social Fund, the £100k which had been retained to help develop new initiatives in the Voluntary Sector, Healthwatch Darlington and Citizen's Advice Bureau be included within the indicators. However, in view of the short timescale provided to look at the

proposed indicators, Members were asked to feedback to Officers any additional areas they would like to be included.

16. We noted that the majority of Performance Indicators for this Scrutiny Committee reflected the Council's interest and investment and that there were many more PI's, which had been worked through since 2013, reported to Public Health England.

Councillor Wendy Newall
Chair of the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee