

COUNCIL
25 MARCH 2021

OVERVIEW OF HEALTH AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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

Integrated Care System

2. Members welcomed a verbal update from the Director of Governance and Partnerships, North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care System on the next steps for Integrated Care Systems (ICS).
3. Following the publication of the Policy paper 'Integration and innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all' in February 2021 it was reported that statutory status for the ICS was expected by April 2022 and that further guidance was anticipated from NHS England.
4. Members were advised of the obligation for all NHS organisations to develop plans for the next phase of COVID-19 response and service recovery.
5. We noted that there are 13 Local Authorities in the North East and North Cumbria ICS and the intention is to build on the existing arrangements in each of these areas.
6. It is anticipated that the name of the ICS body will be NHS North East and North Cumbria. The aims of the ICS are to pursue better health and wellbeing, better quality of services and sustainable use of NHS resources. The ICS will be accountable for the outcomes and health of the population, with the authority to delegate to a place level.
7. We noted that the ICS will be overseen by a twin board model consisting of an NHS Board, which would be accountable for NHS spend and performance and an ICS Partnership Board, which would be a forum to agree co-ordinated action, provide direction for the early stages of ICS formation and would be responsible for developing a plan to address the health, social care and public health needs of the system.

Covid-19 in Darlington

8. We received a presentation from the Director of Public Health and Public Health Principal updating us on the COVID-19 situation in Darlington (please see [link](#) to presentation).
9. We were provided with details and associated figures for the four tests that must be met for England to progress through the stages of the Governments road map out of lockdown.

10. Particular discussion ensued on the actions taken to improve the uptake of vaccinations by ethnic communities and the need for improved messaging in relation to the vaccination process, particularly for hearing and sight impaired residents was highlighted.

Director of Public Health Annual Report

11. We gave our consideration to the Director of Public Health 2020 statutory annual report which has a focus on Darlington: In the Time of COVID-19.
12. The annual report, which was written by the previous Director of Public Health, Miriam Davidson, discusses the early stages of Covid-19, the North East and the local Darlington response and details the Local Outbreak Control Plan and its key themes.
13. We would like to extend our thanks to Miriam Davidson for her work as Director of Public Health for Darlington.

Work Programme 2020/21

14. We have given consideration to the Work Programme for this Committee for the Municipal Year 2020/21 and possible review topics. The work programme is a rolling programme and items can be added as necessary.

Councillor Ian Bell
Chair of the Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee