

COUNCIL
15 JULY 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.

COVID-19 Recovery

2. Members received a PowerPoint presentation from the Public Health Principal updating us on the COVID-19 situation in Darlington (please see [link](#) to presentation).
3. We were provided with updated information for the four tests that must be met for England to progress through the stages of the Governments road map out of lockdown. We noted that whilst daily cases were rising due to the Delta variant, the hospital admissions were not rising exponentially, as seen during wave 1 and this is a clear indication that vaccines are effective in reducing hospitalisations.

Covid-19 Vaccination Programme – Update and Synopsis

4. We received a presentation from the Director of Commissioning, Strategy and Delivery (Primary and Community Care, NHS Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group), updating Members on the Covid-19 vaccination programme, with details provided of the key milestones of the vaccination programme.
5. Of particular note was the excellent partnership working which included the establishment of twice weekly stakeholder meetings, the support from the Local Authority and volunteers in the delivery of the vaccination programme and the work undertaken to provide vaccinations to residents in the community.
6. Particular discussion ensued on the work being undertaken to encourage vaccination uptake, with Members being reminded that vaccination was not mandatory. We were advised that by encouraging the majority to receive the vaccine, that herd immunity could be achieved to protect those that aren't able to or choose not to have the vaccine.
7. We have requested figures for vaccination uptake in each ward in Darlington.

NHS Tees Valley CCG Financial Challenges and Impacts on Services

8. We also received a presentation from the Chief Finance Officer, NHS Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group on the CCG Financial challenges and impacts on services.
9. Members were advised of the Tees Valley CCG allocations for the six months to 30 September 2021 and the proposed budgets for the same period.

10. Members noted that the CCG plan showed a £4.297m deficit for the 6 months to end of September and that expected QIPP efficiencies were included within the plan for the first half of the year of £2.306m (0.37 per cent of CCG allocations).
11. We were advised of the overall Tees Valley Integrated Care Partnership position and delivery of a £0.4m surplus required to support the wider Integrated Care System.

STRIDE and Access Team

12. Scrutiny received a report updating Members on the mobilisation of the new STRIDE (Support, Treatment, Recovery in Darlington through Empowerment) and Access (Assertive Community Connection and Engagement Support Service) Teams.
13. STRIDE, the new substance misuse service provided by We Are With You, became operational on 17 August 2020. This service provides a range of flexible treatment options, creates aspiration for recovery and reinforces opportunities to identify with and be part of a recovery community at the end of the structured treatment.
14. The ACCESS team, which has been established since mid-July, delivers an intensive programme to improve the experience and outcomes for offenders in Darlington and has been grant funded for a period of 12 months from additional PHE monies.
15. Members questioned the appropriateness of the location of the service in the town centre and acknowledged that by operating from the town centre, the service was visible and accessible to residents requiring help and support and would enable residents to get well in their own community. We noted that the service would operate from various settings within the community and would not be confined to the two sites in the town centre.
16. Members have requested a site visit and look forward to receiving further updates on both the STRIDE and Access Team at a future meeting of this Scrutiny Committee.

Work Programme 2021/22

17. We have given consideration to the Work Programme for this Committee for the Municipal Year 2021/22 and to any additional areas that Members would like to be included.
18. We have agreed that an update on West Park Hospital be brought to the next meeting of this Scrutiny Committee and it was also suggested that an item be included on the impact of COVID on mental health. The Work Programme will be updated accordingly.

Quality Accounts 2020/21

19. Scrutiny considered the draft Quality Accounts 2020/21 of County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust and Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust and have provided commentary for inclusion in the final Quality Accounts.

Councillor Ian Bell
Chair of the Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee