

**COUNCIL**  
**30 SEPTEMBER 2021**

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**OVERVIEW OF HEALTH AND HOUSING 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 Housing Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

**Update on Stroke Rehabilitation Service**

2. Scrutiny welcomed a PowerPoint presentation from the Head of Commissioning and Strategy, NHS Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group, updating Members on the Stroke Rehabilitation Service.
3. Members were reminded of the background to the proposed changes to the stroke rehabilitation service and were informed that there will be no change to the delivery of the inpatient rehabilitation at Bishop Auckland Hospital and University Hospital North Durham.
4. We were also provided with details of work undertaken across GP Practices to identify people with Atrial Fibrillation to ensure people were clinically optimized and that work continued to support early discharge. We noted the additional investment into the RIACT community model and that the stroke association continues to work in tandem with the stroke service, with 178 referrals received in 2019-2020.
5. Members did question the input from psychology and mental health services in stroke rehabilitation and were informed that psychologists are involved in the pathway as part of the assessment process and that the County Durham and Darlington Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) is available for those individuals presenting to primary care.
6. We also held a discussion in respect of the future of stroke services, noting the requirement to strengthen the community offer. We were made aware of the potential to invest in community services as part of the Ageing Well funding.

**COVID-19 Vaccination Programme Update**

7. We also received a PowerPoint presentation from the Head of Commissioning and Strategy, NHS Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group, updating Members on the Covid-19 vaccination programme.
8. It was reported that the data up to and including 22 August showed that Darlington achieved 85.19 per cent for first doses, which was above the North East and North Cumbria rate and we achieved 74.28 per cent for second doses, with numbers still increasing.
9. We also noted the vaccination uptake for the JCVI cohorts and ethnic groups and acknowledged that further work is required to encourage the younger population and white British population to receive the vaccine.

10. Reference was made to the success of the pop-up vaccination clinic at Darlington Pride and we queried if there are further plans for pop-up clinic at upcoming events in Darlington.

### **COVID-19 in Darlington**

11. A further PowerPoint presentation was received from the Director of Public Health updating us on the COVID-19 situation in Darlington (please see [link](#) to presentation).
12. We noted that whilst infection rates were rising, the hospital admissions were not rising to the same extent and this is a clear indication that vaccines are effective in reducing hospitalisations.
13. We were informed that there had been a slight increase in bed occupancy in July but that this was now reducing and we noted the changes to the government guidelines introduced from 16 August.

### **Care Quality Commission Inspection Update**

14. We received a PowerPoint presentation from the Chief Executive, Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust, updating Scrutiny on the recent Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspections of the Adult Mental Health (AMH) and Psychiatric Intensive Care Units (PICU). We noted that the Elm Ward (female AMH) was inspected on 20 - 22 January, and again on 25 – 27 May alongside the Cedar (PICU) Ward.
15. The key message from the January inspection was that the inspectors were not assured that there were systems and processes in place, across the Trust, to safely assess and mitigate patient risk.
16. Scrutiny were provided with details of the immediate actions undertaken by the Trust, with particular reference made to the quality assurance schedule that has been designed to replace previous audit activity and which includes a range of activities to allow for early escalation of key issues.
17. We also noted the further actions undertaken with particular discussion on the programme of improvements in environmental safety including £3.8M of capital investment. Members were provided with details of the anti-ligature sensors installed in West Park Hospital.
18. We were advised that initial feedback from the inspection on 25- 27 May indicated that the CQC felt the systems and processes in relation to risk management have been improved.
19. We extended our thanks to the Trust for accommodating a tour of West Park Hospital for Members of this Scrutiny Committee.

### **TEWV's New Strategic Framework and Business Plan**

20. We also received a PowerPoint presentation from the Chief Executive and Director of Operations, Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust, updating Members on TEWV's new Strategic Framework and Business Plan.
21. We were provided with details of the work undertaken to date as part of the Trusts Journey to Change, noting that a new strategic framework had been approved in January 2021 and that five strategic journeys were being established, with Year 1 priorities and actions agreed.
22. The presentation also outlined the vision and values for the new strategic direction and details were provided of the work being undertaken to deliver the actions and milestones detailed in the Business Plan 21-22 to 23-24.
23. We held a discussion in respect of continuity and choice in a patient's journey. We were informed that there is an element of choice regarding a patient's interventions, however the allocation of a care co-ordinator is geographically based but that accommodations can be made where necessary. We noted that improved patient choice will be considered as part of the service redesign.
24. Scrutiny were informed that the Trust has GP aligned professionals in most GP practices in the town and that there is an intention to deliver services in different locations across the town to improve integration with voluntary sector services. Members proposed the use of community hubs in each ward.

#### **Performance Indicators – Quarter 4 2020/2021**

25. 16. We received an update on performance against key performance indicators for 2020/21 at Quarter 4.
26. We noted that of the twelve Housing and Culture indicators reported to this Scrutiny Committee, nine had data available. We were advised that three indicators were showing performance better than the same period last year, whilst six, which included the three Culture indicators, were showing performance worse than the same period last year.
27. Of the 24 Public Health indicators reported to this Scrutiny Committee, fourteen had new data available. It was reported that of the fourteen indicators, five were showing an improved performance when compared to the same period last year, whilst eight indicators were showing performance not as good as the previous year and one indicator was showing a performance the same as the previous year.

#### **Work Programme 2021/22**

28. 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.
29. We have requested that an update in respect of the Integrated Care System be brought forward to an earlier meeting of this Scrutiny Committee.

**Councillor Ian Bell**  
**Chair of the Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee**