

**COUNCIL**  
**25 APRIL 2019**

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**OVERVIEW OF HEALTH AND PARTNERSHIPS 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 Partnerships Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

**Work Programme 2018/19**

2. We have given consideration to the Work Programme for this Committee and possible review topics. The work programme is a rolling work programme and items can be added as necessary.
3. Members discussed potential areas to add to the Work Programme including GP Access to appointments (to be part of a wider review of primary care) and Substance use/misuse.

**Additional Funding for Councils to Alleviate Winter Pressures**

4. We were advised that additional funding of £501,172 has been allocated to the Council to spend on adult social care services to help alleviate winter pressures on the NHS.
5. Conditions set by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care specified that spending should be agreed with the NHS and be focused on Reduced Delayed Transfers of Care, helping to reduce extended lengths of stay in hospital, weekend discharge arrangements and speeding up the process of assessing and agreeing what social care is needed for patients in hospital.
6. We were advised of the schemes within adult social care services which were allocated funding and that spending for these schemes had been adjusted in response to demand.
7. We were pleased to note the positive impact of the funding to date and that for December 2018 Darlington, when compared to all Single Tier and County Councils in England, ranked five on the overall rate of delayed beds.

**Performance Indicators Quarter 3 2018/19**

8. We received an update on performance against key performance indicators for 2018/19 at Quarter 3.
9. Members noted that of the nine key Public Health indicators reported to Scrutiny this quarter, the majority demonstrated stable or improving trends in keeping with local and national rates. Of the two Cultural indicators reported, one was showing performance better than at the same quarter the previous year, whilst one was showing performance that was worse.

## **Integrated Care Systems**

10. Nicola Bailey, Chief Officer, Darlington CCG, provided an update on the current position of the Integrated Care Systems (ICS), informing Members that the North East and North Cumbria are participating in the aspirant ICS programme to become an ICS. This programme involves an assurance process to become a shadow ICS and requires a demonstration of partnership working.
11. We queried the progress in respect of the work on clinical pathways and strategies and it was confirmed that a draft clinical strategy has been developed and includes a range of business cases. A full programme of public engagement and formal consultation will progress following the elections. Members requested that the programme be brought to the next meeting.

## **Update on Stroke Rehabilitation Service Review**

12. We welcomed a presentation from Katie McLeod, Head of Commissioning and Strategy, NHS Darlington CCG, updating us on the work undertaken to date on the Stroke Rehabilitation Service Review.
13. We were advised that Phase One of the Review had been completed and common themes identified by the first period of engagement included communication challenges at various points in the patient pathway, emotional wellbeing and support, inconsistency of community rehabilitation provision and a need for longer period of therapy following discharge from a hospital setting.
14. Phase Two of the Review is due to commence following the elections in May. The Stroke Association will lead on the work to engage with those within the local community identified as at risk of a stroke, to seek their views on initial proposals. Feedback on the findings from the engagement, and proposed next steps will be shared at the next meeting of this Scrutiny Committee.
15. I advised the Members that I had met with members of the Stroke Club at Age UK as part of the review who identified a number of issues regarding the service provided to those that had suffered from a stroke much of which is referred to in the previous paragraph. Councillor Heslop and I met with Darlington Stroke Recovery Service which is provided by the Stroke Association. This visit echoed some of the issues raised by members of the Stroke Club and stressed the importance of peer support and emotional support for those people that had suffered a life changing event.
16. Members of the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee have for some time had concerns about stroke rehabilitation in the community. We are pleased that the CCG is undertaking this review and by listening to the views of stroke sufferers and their carers will develop a rehabilitation pathway which will result in better outcomes for patients.

## **Darlington Partnership Update**

17. We received an update on the progress of Darlington Partnership which continues to champion the sustainable community strategy One Darlington: Perfectly Placed. The Partnership has ensured that the projects it has established have continued to deliver effectively.

18. We welcomed hearing that the Partnership has agreed a charter, 'Fairer, Richer, Darlington' which aims to narrow the gap between those families who are struggling financially and the rest and has three simultaneous work-streams to improve residents' wellbeing over the short, medium and long term.
19. The excellent Darlington Cares initiative which provides a means for Darlington's businesses to support the local community, predominantly through employer supported volunteering, has developed a number of new projects and now has a membership of 30 local employers.
20. The Great Parks Auction, in which Darlington Cares member companies bid thousands of hours of volunteering, has been a great success with 921 volunteers donating 3,376 hours of time, way in excess of the hours bid. This initiative was shortlisted as a finalist in the Community Engagement Award category of the Keep Britain Tidy Network Awards on 6 February 2019 and Darlington was a runner up.
21. During 2018 over 11,000 hours of volunteering were delivered by Darlington Cares members, including support to over 4000 children with their reading via the Busy Readers and over 600 bags of litter collected.
22. The Festival of Ingenuity will be held on 12 and 13 July and there will be a marquee on the town square showcasing Darlington's ingenious businesses, a family run area on the Feetham's Podium level and live music at the riverside park.
23. The Best of Darlington Awards ceremony is scheduled for 14 June and Members were reminded to submit any nominations for the Awards.
24. Following the success of the previous Volunteer Fairs, a further Fair was held on 7 February. The Fair was sponsored by the County Durham Community Foundation with over 60 voluntary sector organisations participating.

#### **End of Life Care for People with Dementia Review Group**

25. We noted the progress made to date by the Dementia Review group, established by this Committee and the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee to examine end of life care for people with dementia.
26. Members of the review group have undertaken visits and made contact with a number of organisations, seeking assurance that patients were receiving the best care at the end of their life.
27. Whilst good progress has been made, we acknowledged the need for further work including additional contact with organisations such as Alzheimer's Society and Independent Care Homes and a further meeting of the Review Group to discuss the policy in place at Darlington Memorial Hospital regarding end of life care for those living with dementia with Dr Nicholson, Consultant on End of Life Care, and a representative from the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust.

**Councillor Wendy Newall**  
**Chair of the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee**