

**COUNCIL**  
**26 SEPTEMBER 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 2019/20**

2. We have given consideration to the Work Programme for this Committee for the Municipal Year 2019/20 and possible review topics. The work programme is a rolling work programme and items can be added or archived as appropriate.

**Proposals for New Clinical Commissioning Groups for Tees Valley and Durham CCGs**

3. At a Special meeting of Scrutiny, Members gave consideration to the proposals for new Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) for Tees Valley and Durham.
4. We were advised of the current arrangements that cover Teesside, Darlington and Durham, with five CCG's, and of the four proposed options, the preferred option was to have two CCGs with a shared management structure. This was preferred as currently there is one Accountable Officer and a combined management structure already in place.
5. Members raised concern in respect of budget arrangements for the proposed option and were assured that although budgets would be combined, money would not be reallocated; and that existing plans would remain in place.
6. We were asked to provide comments on the proposals. This feedback, along with the views of local authorities, NHS providers, Health and Well Being Boards, Scrutiny Committees and Healthwatch Darlington was fed into the meetings of the Governing Bodies in August to consider the merger proposal.

**Development of a Single Crisis Service across Durham and Darlington and Closure of the Crisis and Recovery House**

7. Scrutiny received an update on the proposals to reconfigure adult crisis services across Durham and Darlington into one team and to close the Crisis and Recovery House in Shildon, County Durham.
8. Members noted feedback, which highlighted the need for improved intensive home treatment provision, the need for a safe haven providing support away from the home environment and proposal for the crisis service be reconfigured to create a single team supported by a hub and spoke model.
9. Members supported the proposed single service approach and the implementation of a hub and spoke model.

10. We raised concern in respect of the response by services to those in the community having a mental health crisis. The Director of Operations, Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust assured Members that the street triage team works closely with the crisis team and the police when responding to individuals and confirmed that harm minimisation, a recovery-orientated approach to clinical risk assessment and management, has been introduced.
11. Due to our role in the community, Members felt it would be beneficial to receive Mental Health Awareness training and we agreed for further updates on the Crisis Service at a future meeting of this Scrutiny Committee.

### **Right Care, Right Place**

12. The Scrutiny Committee received a presentation from Levi Buckley, Director of Operations, Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust on the Right Care Right Place Programme.
13. The presentation highlighted that the programme would deliver a better experience and outcomes for service users, staff and partners using a recovery-focused and trauma informed approach.
14. There are three work streams, Acute Care, Urgent Care and Community Services with engagement events on 7 and 9 October 2019.
15. Following the presentation we expressed our concerns in respect of rural communities in Darlington and their awareness of services, and acknowledged that further updates were required from the Primary Care Network in respect of the role of GP's in tackling isolation.

### **Healthwatch Darlington Annual Report 2018/19**

16. Members welcomed a presentation from the Chief Executive Officer, Healthwatch Darlington on the Healthwatch Darlington Annual Report 2018/19 and recognised their valuable work.

### **Improving Stroke Rehabilitation for the People of Darlington**

17. Members received a presentation from the Director of Commissioning, Strategy and Delivery on the review of stroke rehabilitation services in County Durham and Darlington.
18. Scrutiny Committee has received a number of updates relating to the stroke services and Members acknowledged that the change to a single site model for the hyper acute stroke service has been successful in improving the outcome of patients at the point of emergency.
19. The review had identified that the current model, in respect of stroke rehabilitation is currently inequitable across the county and not compliant with best practice.
20. Members also noted the preferred option identified by an options appraisal - to consolidate acute rehabilitation onto the specialist stroke unit at the University

Hospital North Durham with a robust and effective community based rehabilitation in place.

21. Members were assured that the consolidation of teams, as part of the preferred option, will release resources that will be reinvested in the employment of additional therapists, to ensure that an effective community based rehabilitation can be provided.

### **Review of Inpatient Rehabilitation in County Durham and Darlington**

22. We also received an update on the review of inpatient rehabilitation in County Durham and Darlington, relating to Ward 6 at Bishop Auckland Hospital.
23. Ward 6, a nurse led ward with 24 beds providing step down care, was identified for review as part of a wider work programme to ensure inpatient facilities were being used effectively.
24. Feedback was received from patients and carers on their experience of the ward. The review identified that inpatient rehabilitation was not standardised and not always compliant with best practice; and ward 6 had no dedicated therapy support.
25. We were advised of the options appraisal and noted the proposal to change the functionality of the ward to an inpatient rehabilitation unit where therapists would be part of the model of care; and that a public consultation would be undertaken from 7 October 2019 for 10 weeks to inform the final proposals.

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