

HEALTH AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 31 October 2019

PRESENT – Councillors Bell (Chair), Clarke, Donoghue, Heslop, Layton, Lee, McEwan, Newall and K Nicholson

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Karen Hawkins (Director of Commissioning and Transformation, NHS Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group), Michael Houghton (NHS Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group), Michelle Thompson (Healthwatch Darlington) and Mark Pickering (NHS Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Christine Shields (Assistant Director Commissioning, Performance and Transformation), Ken Ross (Public Health Principal) and Hannah Fay (Democratic Officer)

HP19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor McEwan declared an interest in Minute HP21/Oct/19 below as the Lay Member for Darlington Primary Care Network.

HP20 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 29 AUGUST 2019

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 29 August 2019.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 29 August 2019 be approved as a correct record.

HP21 DARLINGTON PRIMARY CARE NETWORK

Karen Hawkins, Director of Commissioning, Strategy and Delivery gave a PowerPoint Presentation to update Members on the Darlington Primary Care Network (PCN) in light of changes to GP contracts.

Details were provided on the five year framework for GP services; that a major change in the GP contracts for 2019/20 was the introduction of the Network Contract Directed Enhanced Services (DES); the focus of the Network Contract DES was to support the establishment of PCNs and the recruitment of new workforce.

It was confirmed that the Network Contract DES would remain in place for the next five years; was subject to annual review and development; and was an extension of the core GP contract offered to all practice. All practices in Darlington had signed up to the Network Agreement which set out the rights and obligations of the contract.

The presentation detailed the core characteristics of a PCN; a strategic view of the PCN's in the local area; and outlined the Darlington PCN and populations for each practice.

It was reported that whilst the maximum size for a PCN should not exceed 50,000, due to the work undertaken around the Healthy New Towns programme and New

Models of Care, a whole town approach was already in place covering the whole population in Darlington although practices would continue to work in neighbourhoods where this is appropriate and it would be a retrograde step to split the network into separate areas.

Details were provided on the DES for 2020/21 and 2021/22; these were under contract negotiation nationally and as such outcomes were still to be identified; and it was confirmed that additional funding was in place to deliver the new DES as agreed in the national contract deal.

Discussion ensued on the number and spread of GP Practices in Darlington and if there were enough. Members were assured that the needs of Darlington residents were being met within the existing practices and there was no requirement for an additional practice to be procured; and that residents in rural areas who were registered with GPs in Durham/DDES would be in receipt of the same services as Darlington residents, as the GP practices in these areas were signed up to the Network Contract DES.

Following a question on information sharing between GPs and hospitals it was confirmed that all GP practices used the same system, SystemOne; working groups were being set up to address the communication issues with primary and secondary care; and that the Network Agreement which had been signed by all GP practices included a data sharing requirement.

Discussion ensued in respect of social prescribing; Members made reference to a previous piece of work undertaken and felt that progress to date had been disappointing; Members were advised that social prescribing link work was nationally mandated and that wellbeing facilitators were already in place which would link in with the social prescribing role. The initial focus was on those with chaotic lives as this was identified as an issue across a number of organisations.

RESOLVED – (a) That the Director of Commissioning, Strategy and Delivery be thanked for the presentation.

HP22 STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

The Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Transformation, provided Members with an update on the Strengthening Families programme.

It was confirmed that the Department for Education had invested £84million to support local authorities to improve work with families and to reduce the number of children entering care; Darlington would be working in partnership with Leeds Council to deliver the programme; and that the programme was based on an approach that involved working with families to encourage and build resilience, to ensure that children remain with their families wherever it was safe to do so.

The programme was launched on 24th September; a number of training sessions were in place which were open to both local authority and multi-agency staff that work with children and families; and that Darlington was working towards being a child friendly town.

Discussion ensued in respect of the programme and the risks of language and cultural barriers faced by families of ethnic minority. Members were advised that the programme focussed on the strengths of families and that these strengths would be different for every family; and social workers were trained to manage every situation differently. Members requested further information regarding the management of language and cultural barriers by social workers.

RESOLVED – That the Assistant Director, Commissioning Performance and Transformation be thanked for providing an update on Strengthening Families.

HP23 SCRUTINY COMMITTEES - PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Managing Director submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference for the Council's Scrutiny Committees.

The submitted report stated that the Leader of the Council intended to implement a number of changes to the Cabinet Portfolios with effect from December 2019; and that Officers had been requested to review the terms of reference for the Council's Scrutiny Committees with a view to align them more closely with the Cabinet Portfolios.

The full details of the changes being made to the Cabinet Portfolios and the proposed terms of reference were appended to the submitted report.

RESOLVED – (a) That the proposed changes to this Scrutiny Committee be noted and agreed.

HP24 WORK PROGRAMME

The Managing Director submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to this Scrutiny Committee's work programme and to consider any additional areas which Members would like to suggest should be included in the previously approved work programme.

Members were advised that the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee had agreed to establish a task and finish review on Loneliness and Connected Communities and an invitation had been extended to this Scrutiny Committee to be involved.

There was a discussion on the proposal to establish a task and finish review to examine the inconsistency in the CQC ratings across the town. It was proposed that the review incorporated food hygiene ratings and settings with a good rating.

Concern was raised in respect of the report for the review on End of Life Care for Patients with Dementia. It was confirmed that a number of amendments had been made to the recommendations in the draft final report; and that the report would be circulated with Members that had been involved in the review.

Members were made aware of a GP surgery in the borough of Darlington that was looking to cease its contract as a dispensing practice; the practice had 761 patients actively registered for the dispensing of prescriptions; as part of the notice the surgery

would be expected to consider the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment and communicate and engage with its registered patients; and that there may be implications for other surgeries in Darlington.

RESOVED – (a) That Members of this Scrutiny Committee be involved in the Task and Finish Review Group on Loneliness and Connected Communities.

(b) That a Task and Finish Review Group be established to undertake a review on CQC ratings in the Borough of Darlington, and that an invitation be extended to the Chair and Vice Chair of Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee to participate in the work.

(c) That the Work Programme be updated accordingly.

HP25 HEALTH AND WELL BEING BOARD

Members were advised that the next meeting of the Health and Well Being Board was scheduled for 28 November 2019.

RESOLVED – That Members look forward to receiving an update on the work of the Health and Well Being Board at a future meeting of this Scrutiny Committee.