

COUNCIL
5 DECEMBER 2019

OVERVIEW OF HEALTH AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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 as necessary.
3. Members accepted the invitation from Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee to participate in the Loneliness and Connected Communities Task and Finish Review. This will be led by the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee.
4. Members gave their consideration to a proposal to undertake a piece of work to examine the inconsistency in the CQC ratings across the town. It was agreed to progress with this item, Health and Partnerships will be the lead for the work with involvement from Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee.

Primary Care Update

5. We welcomed a joint presentation from Karen Hawkins, Director of Commissioning Strategy and Delivery on the Darlington Primary Care Network (PCN), a partnership of GP practices that work together with other local health and care providers.
6. Scrutiny was advised that a five year framework for GP services had been agreed and that a major change in the GP contracts for 2019/20 was the introduction of the Network Contract as a Directed Enhanced Service (DES). The focus of the Network Contract DES for 2019/20 is to support the establishment of PCNs and the recruitment of new workforce. The DES will remain in place for the next five years, subject to annual review and development.
7. We noted that all eleven GP practices in Darlington have signed up to a Network Agreement as part of the Network Contract Directed Enhanced Services (DES) and the identified network area for Darlington PCN is the whole population of Darlington.
8. Scrutiny were advised of the DES for 2020/21 and 2021/22 and were pleased to note that funding for additional roles would be provided to support these service requirements.
9. Following concerns regarding the number and location of the GP practices in Darlington, Members were assured that the eleven practices in Darlington were sufficient for the population of Darlington and there was no requirement for an additional practice. Members requested further information as to how many

residents in rural areas of Darlington were registered with practices outside of Darlington.

Strengthening Families

10. We received an update from the Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Transformation on Strengthening Families, a DfE funded programme aimed helping to reduce the number of children entering care.
11. We were advised that Darlington would be working in partnership with Leeds City Council to deliver the programme, which is based on an approach that involves working with families to encourage and build resilience, to ensure that children remain with their families wherever it is safe to do so.
12. Members welcomed the update and wished to record their thanks to Children's Services for their excellent work.

Alignment of Portfolio and Scrutiny

13. Scrutiny Committee received a report outlining the proposed changes to the Cabinet Portfolios and suggested changes to the terms of reference for this Scrutiny Committee to align more closely with the Cabinet Portfolios. Members agreed to the proposed changes to this Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Ian Bell
Chair of the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee