

**COUNCIL**  
**30 JANUARY 2020**

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**OVERVIEW OF ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Adults Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

**Better Care Fund**

2. We received a report which provided an update to Members on the 2019/20 Darlington Better Care Fund Plan submission, and of Better Care Fund plans beyond the current period.
3. The Committee was informed that the Better Care Fund (BCF) was a programme spanning both the NHS and Local Government, which sought to join up health and care services so that people can manage their own health and well-being and live independently within their communities for as long as possible. Members heard that the Fund brings together ring-fenced budgets from Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) allocations, and funding paid directly to Local Government, and that the 2019/20 plan was based on seven broad workstreams to support the delivery of the BCF priorities.
4. Members learned that the planning guidance for the 2019/20 submission was published on 18 July 2019, with a final submission date of 27 September 2019, following approval by local Health and Well-Being Boards, and that approval letters would be issued during December 2019, following regional scrutiny of all BCF plans. Members entered into discussion on the strong performance in terms of delayed transfers of care, and the potential effect of winter pressures on discharge arrangements.

**Performance Indicators: Quarter 2 - 2019/20**

5. The Committee received a report which provided Members with performance information against key performance indicators for 2019/20 at Quarter 2. The Adults Scrutiny Committee monitor twelve indicators, ten on a six-monthly basis, and two annually. Of the ten indicators reported on a six-monthly basis, four indicators showed an improved performance compared to this point last year; three indicators are showing a performance not as good as that recorded at this time last year, however are still on track to achieve service targets set; and three indicators were not comparable, and are reviewed at a point in time.
6. In considering the report, Members scrutinised a number of variables within the performance data and heard that some of these variables were due to seasonal pressures or counting issues, however Members were reassured that it is normal to see some fluctuations as a result of individual choices, or the comparatively small size of a data set. Members were pleased to learn that, on the whole, performance remains strong across the key performance indicators, and that we compare favourably both regionally and nationally, however recognised that the focus should

be on maintaining the current level of performance, and that any further improvements are likely to be marginal.

### **Work Programme**

7. Members gave consideration to the Work Programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during 2019/20, and to any additional areas that Members would like to be included. The Committee noted a number of updates to the Work Programme and entered into discussion on the progress of the Support for Autism cross-party working group.

**Councillor Anne-Marie Curry**  
**Chair of Adults Scrutiny Committee**