

HEALTH AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 5 December 2019

PRESENT – Councillors Clarke, Donoghue, Layton, Lee, McEwan and Newall

APOLOGIES – Councillors Bell, Heslop and K Nicholson,

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillors Renton and Mrs Culley

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Miriam Davidson (Director of Public Health), Christine Shields (Assistant Director Commissioning, Performance and Transformation), Ken Ross (Public Health Principal), Mark Pickering (Chief Finance Officer), Michelle Thompson (Chief Executive Officer) and Hannah Fay (Democratic Officer)

HP26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor McEwan declared an interest in Minute HP31/Dec/19 below as the Lay Member for Darlington Primary Care Network.

HP27 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 31 OCTOBER 2019

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 31 October 2019.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 31 October 2019 be approved as a correct record.

HP28 END OF LIFE CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA REVIEW GROUP - FINAL REPORT

The Chair of the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee submitted a report (previously circulated) together with the Final Report (also previously circulated) of the End of Life Care for People with Dementia Review Group.

The submitted report outlined the background to the establishment of the joint Review Group to look at end of life care for people with dementia in Darlington; the review group had met on a number of occasions to discuss a range of issues; and that following the Local Government Election on 2 May 2019 a number of Members involved in the review were no longer in post.

The Director of Public Health confirmed that the recommendations of the joint review group required consideration by the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group; and details were provided of the findings from the recent CQC inspection of County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust which found End of life care services to be outstanding.

Discussion ensued in respect of the recommendations within the final report, in particular the importance of ensuring people with dementia were included in any

discussions in respect of their care whilst still they were still competent as this would achieve the best outcome for the individual, and as such, initial discussions in respect of advanced care planning should be initiated whilst the person with dementia was competent; and that a bespoke pathway would improve communication between organisations.

RESOLVED – (a) That the report be received with the following amendments:-

- (i) That Recommendation a) be amended to 'That following diagnosis, advanced care planning be built into discussions as early as possible, ensuring that families and carers are involved.'
- (ii) That Recommendation c) be amended to 'That a bespoke pathway be developed in conjunction with NHS Providers, St Teresa's Hospice and care/nursing homes as this would improve communication.'

(b) That an update on the recommendations be provided by the Darlington NHS Clinical Commissioning Group to Members of this Scrutiny Committee in six months' time.

HP29 VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR FUNDING: UPDATE ON PILOT COMMUNITY BASED INITIATIVES

The Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Transformation submitted a report (previously circulated) updating Members on the community based initiatives, funded from Voluntary Sector Development Fund monies and being piloted during 2019/20.

The report stated that approval had been given in 2018 for the implementation of seven pilot community based initiatives; that £142,000 had initially been allocated, with an additional £21,000 made available from the Community Facilities Fund; and a multi-agency steering group was in place to manage the funding.

The submitted report outlined the seven initiatives, including aims and amount of allocated funding for each initiative.

Particular reference was made to the success of Initiatives 2 and 3 – Mutual Gain; the local community group involved in these projects, TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More) was nominated as a finalist for Durham Constabulary POP awards; and the need to utilise existing services and resources in place was highlighted.

RESOLVED – (a) That the progress report be noted.

(b) That this Scrutiny Committee receive an end of year update.

HP30 DARLINGTON CCG FINANCIAL CHALLENGES AND IMPACT ON SERVICES 2019/20 AND BEYOND

The Chief Finance Officer, Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) gave a PowerPoint presentation which provided an update on Darlington CCG financial challenges and Impact on Services 2019/20 and beyond, outlining the utilisation of resources in 2018/19; expected outturn in 2019/20; the finance position as of October 2019; and the 2019/20 efficiency programme.

The breakdown of funding for services was outlined, the majority of spend for 2018/19 in the area of acute care; expected outturn for 2019/20 was comparable to the previous year but with a one per cent reduction in acute care; and the CCG was on track to deliver an in-year break-even position.

Details were provided on the 2019/20 Efficiency Programme, which had been developed to identify opportunities for efficiency; key areas for 2019/20 were in acute spend, GP prescribing in primary care, Estates utilisation and Continuing Healthcare; and the overall target saving was £2.33m. The efficiency target for 2020/21 was 1.1 per cent.

It was reported that the merger of Darlington CCG with Hartlepool and Stockton on Tees CCG and South Tees CCG would take effect from 1 April 2020; and a plan would be produced to combine the commissioned services of these three CCG's.

Following a question, it was confirmed that the Tees Valley CCG would have an estimated budget over one billion pounds; commissioning staff would work across various bases; and the merger would allow for commissioning processes to be standardised across the Tees Valley region.

Discussion ensued regarding investment for mental health services and increased expenditure on GP prescribing. The Chief Finance Officer advised that mental health was an area identified for investment and that repeat prescribing would be reviewed to ensure their appropriateness.

RESOLVED – That the Chief Financial Officer be thanked for his interesting and informative presentation.

HP31 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH 2018/19 HEALTHY NEW TOWNS: DARLINGTON

The Director of Public Health submitted a report (previously circulated) to share with Members the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2018/19 (also previously circulated)

The submitted report stated that the Annual Report had been produced as a requirement of the Health and Social Care Act 2012; the subject for discussion was Healthy New Towns with a focus on legacy; the report was structured around five chapters reflecting the key strands of the programme; Darlington was selected as a pilot Healthy New Town in 2016; and was funded by NHS England with collaboration from a number of partners.

RESOLVED – (a) That the 2018/19 Annual Report of the Director of Public Health, which had a focus on legacy of the programme, be noted.

HP32 LOCAL AUTHORITY HEALTH PROFILE 2019 - BRIEFING REPORT

The Director of Public Health submitted a report (previously circulated) outlining the key messages in the Local Authority Health Profile for Darlington in 2019 which

provided a snap shot of child and adult health in Darlington and enabled benchmarking against region and the rest of England.

Particular reference was made to the life expectancy for men and women in Darlington which remained significantly lower than the England average, with a variation of 12.4 years for men and 9.7 years for women between the most and least deprived areas of Darlington.

Reference was also made to smoking at the time of delivery which was statistically worse than the England average; that more than two out of ten Year 6 children were classified as obese; nearly four out of ten adults were estimated to be physically inactive; one in three adults were classified as overweight or obese; and that physical activity and obesity were associated with a range of preventable health conditions including diabetes, cancer, heart disease and stroke.

Details were provided on the work being undertaken to address the key emerging issues from the Health Profile. A Childhood Healthy Weight Plan had been developed as part of a multi-agency approach to tackle obesity; CDDFT which has 'smoke free' status have improved signage, moved smoking bins and offer support to patients and family members that smoke.

Following a question regarding education of parents in respect of food choices, Members were advised that the Childhood Healthy Weight Plan included work with parents and food outlets to improve the availability of healthy choices; and Members were advised of Hummersknott Academy Trust who had implemented a healthy food policy across the whole school including a points based system for earning treats, which was compulsory for children and all adults in the school including teachers.

Discussion ensued in respect of smoking in young people; the annual Healthy Lifestyle Survey identified that a small decreasing minority of young people still smoked; and multi-agency work was ongoing with 0-19 services, police and trading standards to address sale of illicit tobacco.

Concerns were raised in respect of an increasing number of vaping related deaths in the USA; advice from Public Health England confirmed that vaping was a safer alternative to smoking for those that already smoking and was a useful aid to stop smoking; that the sale of vaping liquids in the USA was not as closely regulated as the UK; and the deaths in the USA were as a result of people home brewing vaping liquids often involving cannabis.

RESOLVED – That the Local Authority Health Profile and actions to address the key issues, be noted.

HP33 HEALTH AND WELL BEING BOARD

Members were advised that the Health and Well Being Board held on 28 November 2019 focussed on 'Living and Ageing Well', with a presentation on 'Winter Planning' and updates provided on Mental Health, Darlington Suicide Prevention Plan and the Public Health England Annual Health Protection Report 2018/19.

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the Health and Well Being Board was

scheduled for 12 March 2020 and would focus on an assessment of priorities and a stocktake of current plans.

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.

HP34 WORK PROGRAMME

The Managing Director submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to this Scrutiny Committee's work programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2019/20.

In light of the changes to the Portfolios and Scrutiny Committees, Members were advised that the current work programme would be reviewed.

RESOLVED – That the current status of the Work Programme be noted.