

COUNCIL
26 MARCH 2020 (This meeting is cancelled)

OVERVIEW OF HEALTH AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Health and Housing 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 programme and items can be added as necessary.

Darlington Childhood Healthy Weight Plan

3. Scrutiny welcomed an update on the Darlington Childhood Healthy Weight Plan, the partnership launch event and next steps in taking the work forward.
4. The Public Health Portfolio Lead provided details of the overall objectives of the plan and the key themes identified from the discussions at the partnership launch event, which emphasised that obesity cannot be seen or tackled as a single issue.
5. We noted the actions set out in the report to implement a whole systems approach to tackling obesity and discussed in particular the responsibility of Members in promoting physical activity in the community.

Performance Indicators – Quarter 2 2019/20

6. We received an update on performance against key performance indicators for Quarter 2 2019/20.
7. Members were advised that of the 36 indicators reported to this Scrutiny Committee, six are Housing indicators, six are Culture indicators and twenty four are Public Health indicators.
8. Members noted that of nine Housing and Culture indicators reported quarterly, three indicators demonstrated an improved performance compared to the same point in the previous year whilst six indicators, which included the three Culture indicators, showed a performance not as good as that recorded at the same time in the previous year.
9. In relation to the Public Health indicators Members were pleased to note that of the three Public Health indicators reported to Scrutiny this quarter relating to Alcohol related admissions to hospital, the NHS Health Check programme and antibiotic prescribing by the NHS which all showed performance better than the previous year.

Community Eye Care - Briefing

10. Scrutiny received a briefing paper on the CCG's intention to commission a high quality, safe and sustainable community eye care service to deliver virtual glaucoma monitoring and post-op cataract care in the community.
11. County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust have been working collaboratively with CCG for a number of years to reduce activity to the ophthalmology department, which attracts high numbers of review out-patient appointments.
12. We noted that approximately 2,000 suitable patients could be transferred to a community virtual glaucoma monitoring service and 2,300 patients were identified as suitable to transfer to a post-op cataract service. The proposed change would alleviate pressures on the already stretched hospital eye services, enabling Ophthalmologist and team to manage those patients with more complex conditions.
13. Patient engagement undertaken has identified that most patients are in support of the community service and Members noted that patients would find it easier to attend a community service in the high street and this would reduce reliance on ambulance transport to hospitals.
14. Members welcomed the community eye care service and were reassured that the service would be available across multiple sites in County Durham and Darlington.

Autism Provision – Quad of Aims

15. We gave consideration to a request received from Councillor Mills that an item in relation to Autism provision be added to our Work Programme, and the Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to establish a Joint Review Group with Adults and Children and Young People Scrutiny Committees to look at this area.

Quality Accounts – County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (CDDFT)

16. Members met with the Trust to give consideration to the Trust's Quality Accounts to enable Members to have a better understanding and knowledge of performance when submitting a final commentary on the Quality Accounts at the end of each Municipal Year.
17. Members noted the progress against the agreed priorities during the period of April 2019 to September 2019.

Quality Accounts – Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV)

18. Members met with the Trust to give consideration to the Trust's Quality Accounts to enable Members to have a better understanding and knowledge of performance when submitting a final commentary on the Quality Accounts at the end of each Municipal Year.
19. We received the Quarter 2 Performance Report which provided an update on progress against the five key quality priorities for 2019/20 as well as performance against the agreed quality metrics.

Councillor Ian Bell
Chair of the Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee