

HEALTH AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 30 January 2020

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

APOLOGIES –

ABSENT – Councillors Dr. Chou

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE –

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Miriam Davidson (Director of Public Health), Pauline Mitchell (Assistant Director Housing and Building Services), Christine Shields (Assistant Director Commissioning, Performance and Transformation), Michael Houghton (Director of Commissioning Strategy and Delivery), Becky James (Public Health Portfolio Lead), Lisa Soderman (Head of Leisure) and Hannah Fay (Democratic Officer)

HH45 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

HH46 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS SCRUTINY HELD ON :-

(1) 5 DECEMBER 2019

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 5 December 2019.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 5 December 2019 be approved as a correct record.

(2) 11 DECEMBER 2019 AND

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 11 December 2019.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 11 December 2019 be approved as a correct record.

(3) 10 JANUARY 2020

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 10 January 2020.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 10 January 2020 be approved as a correct record.

HH47 COMMUNITY EYE CARE SERVICE - BRIEFING

The Director of Commissioning Strategy and Delivery, NHS Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and North Durham CCG submitted a briefing note (previously circulated) on Darlington 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.

It was reported that County Durham and Darlington CCG's had been working collaboratively with County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (CDDFT) for a number of years to reduce activity to the overstretched Ophthalmology department; the community services would improve the patient pathway, reduce the number of review attendances at hospital and create capacity for newly diagnosed and more complex patients.

It was also reported that approximately 2,000 patients were suitable for transfer to a community virtual glaucoma monitoring service and 2,300 patients were suitable for transfer to a post-op cataract service; and that feedback from patient engagement on the community service had been positive.

Details were provided of the procurement process; and Members noted that the service was expected to be in place from 1 April 2020. Members were assured that as part of the procurement process, mobilisation plans would be submitted by providers; and that there were no issues anticipated in respect of the launch date.

Following questions Scrutiny was advised that eight optometrists had shown an interest; that this work had been undertaken in conjunction with NHS Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and North Durham CCG; and that the pathways would be available across County Durham and Darlington.

RESOLVED – That the community eye care service pathway be noted.

HH48 DARLINGTON CHILDHOOD HEALTHY WEIGHT PLAN

The Director of Public Health submitted a report (previously circulated) updating Members on the Darlington Childhood Healthy Weight Plan.

It was reported that the scope and vision of the Plan was to ensure that more children leave primary school aged 10-11 years with a healthy weight; that childhood obesity in Darlington was above the national average at both reception and Year 6 age groups; that 21.2 per cent of Darlington children at Year 6 were categorised as obese; and obesity was linked to a range of diseases.

The submitted report detailed the overall objectives of the Healthy Weight Plan; outlined the partnership event held on 24 September 2019 to officially launch the Plan and the key themes identified from discussions at the event; and outlined the actions that had been proposed to align with the priorities of the Plan to achieve a population approach to tackling the issue.

Discussion ensued on engagement with parents, local supermarkets, shops and restaurants; and the Public Health Portfolio Lead advised Members that the Plan was

underpinned by a strong communications plan which would target the whole community.

Reference was made to the vending machine provision in the town and the need for healthier food and drink choices, in particular for those vending machines located within council buildings. The Head of Leisure assured Members that the Dolphin Centre vending machines provided a balanced option to customers; and that Members comments would be taken into consideration.

Following a question it was confirmed that new parents received advice from the midwifery service in respect of breastfeeding and noted that the Health Visiting Service would be an opportune time to provide nutrition advice to parents in respect of a child's early years.

Members made reference to their responsibility in promoting physical activity in the community; and it was confirmed that a Darlington Young Advisors Board had been established to undertake engagement work with young people.

RESOLVED – (a) That the report be noted.

(b) That Members support the actions set out in the report (previously circulated) to implement a whole systems approach to tackling obesity.

HH49 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS - QUARTER 2 2019/20

The Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services and Director of Children and Adults Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide Members with performance data against key performance indicators for Quarter 2 2019/20.

It was reported that 36 indicators were reported to this Scrutiny Committee, six Housing indicators, six Culture indicators and twenty four Public Health indicators.

At Quarter 2, data was available for nine of the twelve Housing and Culture indicators. It was noted that two indicators which had a target to be compared against, HBS 016 – Rent arrears of current tenants in the financial year as a % of rent debit (GNPI 34) and HBS 016 – Rent collected as a proportion of rents owed on HRA dwellings *including arrears b/fwd, were both showing performance not as good as their target; and that, of the nine 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.

In relation to Public Health indicators it was reported that three of the twenty-four indicators had data available at quarter 2, those indicators being PBH 044 – Alcohol related admissions to hospital, PBH 046 – Cumulative percentage of eligible population aged 40-74 offered an NHS Health Check who received an NHS Health Check in the five year period and PBH 052 – Adjusted antibiotic prescribing in primary care by the NHS; and all three indicators were showing performance better than the same point in the previous year.

RESOLVED – That the performance data reported for Quarter 2 2019/20 be noted.

HH50 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.

There was discussion on the current status of a number of topics on the work programme. Members were advised that Voluntary Sector Funding would now sit within the remit of Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee; that updates were being provided to four scrutiny committees; and the Assistant Director of Commissioning, Performance and Transformation questions the possibility of one meeting to update all four scrutiny committees.

In relation to Loneliness and Connected Communities, it was confirmed that an initial scoping meeting had been held and an invitation would be extended to Members of this scrutiny for the next meeting.

RESOLVED – That the current status of the work programme be noted.

(4) QUAD OF AIMS

Councillor Mills submitted a Quad of Aims requesting that this Scrutiny Committee consider a joint review group to examine autism provision within Darlington Borough Council.

Discussion ensued in respect of the wording relating to the 'Reason for request', highlighting the requirement of NHS involvement in the review.

RESOLVED – (a) That a joint review group be established to undertake the work outlined in the Quad of Aims.

(b) That the quad of aims be updated to reflect the requirement of NHS involvement.

(b) That Councillors Bell, Heslop and Layton be nominated to represent this Scrutiny Committee on the joint review group.

(c) That the Work Programme be updated accordingly.

HH51 HEALTH AND WELL BEING BOARD

Members were advised that the next meeting of the Health and Well Being Board was scheduled for 26 March 2020; and this meeting would be a stocktake of priorities.

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.

HH52 QUESTIONS

The Chair raised a question in respect of coronavirus and incident plans; highlighted the ward closures at Darlington Memorial Hospital as a result of norovirus; and questioned how people could be encouraged to stay away unless absolutely necessary.

The Director of Public Health assured Members that GP practices were receiving regular updates in respect of coronavirus; Members were signposted to the Public Health England website for up to date information and guidance on coronavirus; and noted that comments in respect of hospital attendance would be fed back to County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust communications team.

RESOLVED – (a) That the position be noted.

(b) That the Director of Public Health provides feedback CDDFT communications team.