

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of the Adults, Well Being and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee held at the County Hall, Durham on **Thursday 23 July at 10.00 a.m.**

COUNCILLOR R BURNIP in the Chair.

Members of the Committee

Councillors B Brunskill, D Burn, P Gittins, A Laing, A Savory, A Shield and O Temple.

Co-opted Members

Councillor Mr D Haw

Other Members

Councillor R Todd

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Armstrong, J Chaplow, A Cox, R Crute, S Iveson, M Potts, W Stelling and P Stradling and Mr C McCaughey.

A1 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2009 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

A2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

A3 Items from Co-opted Members

There were no items from Co-opted Members.

A4 Proposed Work Programme 2009 and Beyond

The Committee received a presentation from Jeremy Brock, Health Scrutiny Liaison Manager about the proposed work programme for 2009 and beyond (for copy of slides see file of Minutes).

It was explained that the long list of issues was developed from Member discussions at the two previous meetings of the Committee which involved partners from Service Groups and NHS colleagues.

When considering the issues the Committee was asked to bear in mind the criteria such as adding value, focusing on issues that really matter and making a difference.

The Committee will be looking at what the evidence is telling us and focusing on the outcomes to be achieved particularly in the context of Comprehensive Area Assessment. Issues will be examined which cut across services and different organisations. A project managed approach will be taken to the work and progress on the work will be communicated both internally and externally. Consideration will also be given to value for money, bearing mind the current economic climate, equality & diversity issues i.e. moving to single sex accommodation, vulnerable people, inequalities and community cohesion. We will also be looking to engage a range of stakeholders and communities in an inclusive overview and scrutiny approach.

It was explained that the areas to be considered for inclusion in the work programme are broken down into the following service areas:

- Adults Well Being and Health Service Group
- NHS
- NHS County Durham - Commissioner
- NHS County Durham – Provider
- County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust
- North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust
- Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust

The Review of Scrutiny Reports will look at the work previously undertaken by the Committee and these will be considered at the meeting to take place on 27th August. It is noted that action to reduce health inequalities cuts across services and the focus for examination has yet to be determined. There is potential to look at determinants such as poverty or education or lifestyle issues such as smoking, physical activity or access to services issues such as transport. A further area that members may want to consider is levels of investment to tackle health inequalities and to level up health outcomes in the County.

The following areas were suggested for the short list for potential scrutiny examination:

- Working Group:
 - Action to Reduce Health Inequalities;
 - Community Based Health Provision-all services;
 - TEWV- Responding to the Integrated Business Plan (IBP);
- Monitoring Implementation:
 - Seizing the Future;
 - Rural Ambulance services;
- Regional input :-
 - Momentum; NEAS FT application.
- OSC
 - NHS Provider FT separation options;
 - Winter Planning – Flu;
 - MRSA

In terms of Member development issues it was explained that the following are planned:

- Healthy Communities Collaborative leadership programme;
- Member development programme sessions on understanding the NHS/Social Care:- Commissioner/Provider split; Roles/Responsibilities; Commissioning and Joint Commissioning
- Understanding the LINK

The next steps will include liaison with NHS organisations and Service Groupings and further discussions with the Chair and Vice Chair. A steer has been provided by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. It is expected that implementation of the work programme will commence from September 2009.

Referring to ongoing work of the Seizing the Future Joint Oversight Group and the regional response to the NEAS FT application, Councillor Temple sought clarification about how Member selection process. It was explained that the protocol in these instances is to involve the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee and appropriate officers. In relation to the Mental Health Day Services Consultation, Members of the Committee were invited to participate in the Light Touch Review.

In response to Councillor Shield's concerns about transport, the Overview and Scrutiny Manager referred to the review of Integrated Transport jointly undertaken by the County Council and former District Councils in 2008 and explained that the report made significant recommendations to Cabinet. A summary of the report and the progress made in implementing the recommendations will be brought back to a future meeting.

Councillor Temple suggested that all members of the Committee should be contacted for suggestions for the work programme. The Overview and Scrutiny Manager explained that the project planning arrangements may need to take account of unanticipated work such as winter planning and statutory consultations and Members will be invited to participate in these projects and in areas of their particular interests. It was pointed out that in addition to the short list of health issues, social care issues need to be project planned.

David Gallagher informed the Committee that the flu pandemic may require staff to be diverted from their work to deal with flu issues. He also referred to the potential effect on the NHS of the current economic downturn and the need to prepare for leaner resources.

The Overview and Scrutiny Manager informed the Committee that a seminar for all Members will take place on 19th August at 12.00 pm and 6.00 p.m. as part of the Member Development seminar programme on how the NHS system works, including the commissioner/provider split. The Committee meeting on 27th August will include a more in depth discussion of NHS system issues and a similar session is also planned for the Adult Wellbeing and Health Service group at a future meeting. The Committee were also informed that they will be invited to participate in the Health Improvement Leadership Capacity Programme which

will involve four workshops during September and October with details of the programme being circulated today.

Resolved:

That the issues set out below be included in the 2009 work programme:

- Working Group:
 - Action to Reduce Health Inequalities;
 - Community Based Health Provision-all services;
 - TEWV- Responding to the Integrated Business Plan (IBP);
- Monitoring Implementation:
 - Seizing the Future;
 - Rural Ambulance services;
- Regional input :-
 - Momentum; NEAS FT application.
- OSC
 - NHS Provider FT separation options;
 - Winter Planning – Flu;
 - MRSA

A5 Light Touch Review of Mental Health Day Centres

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive on the progress of the Scrutiny Working Group response to the consultation exercise in respect of the review of Mental Health Day Services (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Committee were informed that the Working Group met on 21 July to discuss the draft final report. Further evidence was given at the meeting which expanded on the consultation process and what is being proposed on service improvement. The draft report has been amended to take account of the further evidence and it has also included the recommendations and key findings. It was explained that there are two main strands to the report. The first being the need and the pace of change and the second is about service user's experience of the consultation process. It is felt that the case for change has been made. However it is vital that the service continues to provide a safe space to meet, hold group activities and have social interaction. Service users and carers need to be involved in the analysis of the response and the design and implementation of proposed service improvements arising out of the consultation. The implementation should be at a pace which service users and carers are comfortable with so as not to compromise their health and mental well being. In addition there is a need for greater integration in the provision of all mental health services. There is also evidence that there should be a 're-branding' exercise which accompanies any service improvements as a result of the consultation which places emphasis on improvement rather than change. Work also needs to be undertaken to address the issues of stigma which have been expressed by service users. A further meeting of the Working Group will take place on 30 July to receive and consider the final draft report. The final report will be submitted to this Committee on 27 August for consideration of the recommendations.

Resolved:

1. That the report be received and that the progress made to date on the Light Touch review of Mental Health Day Services be noted.
2. That the full report be considered at the Committee meeting to be held on 27th August 2009.