

# **Adults Well-being and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**



**21<sup>st</sup> December 2009**

## **Update on Mental health Consultations – NHS County Durham and NHS South of Tyne and Wear**

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**Report of: Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive**

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### **Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide Adults Well-being and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the work of the North Easington Mental Health Services Scrutiny Working Group. The establishment of a Working Group to respond to consultations by NHS County Durham and NHS South of Tyne and Wear was agreed by the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Background**

2. In summary the content of the two consultations is as follows:

NHS County Durham commissions services for residents of County Durham. Mental health services are generally commissioned from Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) however for residents of the northern part of the former Easington District it has commissioned services from Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust (NTW). In order to simplify provision and to improve the quality, consistency and governance of services a number of mental health services have, over recent years, been transferred from NTW provision to provision by TEWV. All services have now transferred, except adult and older people in-patient and day services provided from the Cherry Knowle Hospital site in Ryhope by NTW. The NHS County Durham consultation is about the best way to provide inpatient beds for the people of North Easington in future and it is proposing to transfer provision to TEWV.

The NHS South of Tyne and Wear consultation is about options for the future provision of in-patient facilities provided in Sunderland and South Tyneside including from the replacement for the Cherry Knowle Hospital which is to be on the neighbouring Ryhope Hospital site. It is this aspect of this consultation in particular that the views of this committee are to be sought.

NHS County Durham consultation: commenced on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October, ends on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

NHS South of Tyne and Wear consultation: commenced on 21 September and concludes on 31 December 2009.

## **North Easington Mental Health Services Scrutiny Working Group**

3. The Working Group has held two meetings to date:

19<sup>th</sup> November: evidence was received from NHS County Durham on the rationale and context for the proposals and from Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust on the service provision implications. The Terms of Reference for the group was agreed – attached as Appendix 1.

8<sup>th</sup> December: evidence was received on the user and carer's perspective on implications from the proposals - from County Durham and Darlington Mental Health Forum, County Durham Local Involvement Network and Stonham Group. Evidence was also received from the County Council's Integrated Transport Unit and the Transport for Health Group (a multi agency group which explores and can commission solutions where there are gaps in transport access to health services). The Project Plan for the group was agreed.

In addition requests for further information have been made to NHS County Durham and TEWV, and requests for written views on the proposals have been sent to Durham Constabulary, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service, North East Ambulance Service, the Clinical Programme Board (County Durham) and the Local Medical Council.

At the next meeting of the Working Group on 13<sup>th</sup> January evidence is to be received from the Council's Adults Wellbeing and Health Service, NHS County Durham's Public Health Team, Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Trust and the Regional SHA perspective.

## **NHS South of Tyne and Wear – PRIDE consultation**

4. In addition to the Working Group consideration of the NHS County Durham proposals, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee and Working Group attended an Overview and Scrutiny meeting arranged by Sunderland City Council Overview and Scrutiny, (also including South Tyneside Scrutiny representatives), to consider the content of the NHS South of Tyne and Wear proposals contained in the PRIDE consultation. This was held on 26<sup>th</sup> November. The views of the Chair and Vice Chair of the committee from this consultation are:

- The opportunity to engage in the joint meeting with other authorities is welcomed, as is the opportunity to respond to the consultation.
- The focus of the consultation is noted, essentially the proposals for investment in new facilities, and this is welcomed. The lack of information on the services that are to be located in the new facilities and the lack of information on the plans for community service provision is a weakness in the consultation.

- There are concerns over the rationale for the consultation process:
  - That the NHS is conducting two separate consultations in relation to services which affect residents in this area (both NHS South of Tyne as well as NHS County Durham) which has created confusion in messages given to, and responses from, users and carers and for Council Members.
  - The reasons why the PRIDE consultation has not included the residents of North Easington in relation to proposals for future provision from the Cherry Knowle/Ryhope site. It is of concern that as these residents have historically been a natural catchment for services provided from these locations and therefore they should have been included.
- There are also concerns as to how patient choice operates in relation to mental health services. It is recognised that legislation appears to treat mental health services differently from other NHS services and patients do not have choice in the way that they do for other NHS services. The NHS is guided by principles that provide for pathways of care that must be clinically safe but should also be 'local, timely and equitable' and be focused on the needs of users and carers. From information gathered at the joint scrutiny meeting we are very concerned that in future pathways of care will not be available for residents from this part of County Durham from the new Ryhope hospital.
- These issues will be shared with Sunderland City Council for inclusion with their response to NHS South of Tyne and will also be submitted separately from this committee.
- The Working Group of the scrutiny committee will conclude its review and produce a full response in relation to proposals for future provision for residents of this part of the County (the northern part of the former Easington District) by the end of January, and would request that the views and recommendations contained in its report are considered as part of the responses to the PRIDE consultation.

## **Recommendation**

5. Members are asked to:
  - a. Note the work of the Working Group to date;
  - b. Agree to the content of the response that is made to the NHS North of Tyne and Wear in relation to the PRIDE consultation which will be submitted by the deadline for responses.

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## **Appendix 1**

### **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP**

#### **Mental Health services in North Easington - NHS County Durham consultation**

##### **Terms of Reference**

#### **1. Purpose**

The Overview and Scrutiny Working Group: Mental Health services in North Easington – has been set up by the Adults, Well Being and Health Scrutiny Committee in line with its role as statutory consultee (see 3 below), to examine proposals contained in the NHS County Durham consultation:

The proposed transfer of mental health services for inpatient beds for adults of working age and inpatient and day mental health services for older persons – North Easington.

The consultation period runs from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2009 to Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2010.

#### **2. Role**

The Working Group is formed for the following purpose, and once it has completed its task it will be disbanded. The Group will:

- Agree the Terms of Reference
- Agree a Project Plan
- Review the proposals and consider that basis on which they have been formulated.
- Consider evidence from a range of stakeholders.
- Assess the adequacy of the public consultation.
- Ensure the views of the public, users and carers are presented to the committee.
- Produce a response for the Adults Well Being and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

#### **3. Governance Arrangements**

The Overview and Scrutiny Working Group: Mental Health services in North Easington is formed in accordance with the Secretary of State for Health's Directions to Local Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Health Scrutiny Functions) of 17 July 2003 ("the Directions") for the purposes of formal consultation by the relevant NHS Bodies in relation to the matters referred to in paragraphs 1 and in particular in order to be able to:-

- (a) make comments on the proposals consulted on, to the relevant NHS Bodies under the Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Health Scrutiny Functions) Regulations 2002 ("the Regulations");

- (b) require the relevant NHS Bodies to provide information about the proposals under the Regulations; or
- (c) require an officer of the relevant NHS Bodies to attend before it under the Regulations to answer such questions as appear to it to be necessary for the discharge of its functions in connection with the consultation.

### Membership

The Overview and Scrutiny Working Group: Mental Health services in North Easington comprises the Chair and Vice Chair and other members of the Adults Well Being and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee in County Durham.

Councillors: Cllr R Todd; Cllr J Chaplow; Cllr B Brunskill; Cllr R Crute; Cllr J Bailey.

Co-opted members: County Durham and Darlington Mental Health Forum - Eric Johnson and tbc; County Durham Local Involvement Network – Peter Irving.

### Reporting

The Working Group will produce a report responding to the consultation on behalf of the Adults Well Being and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This report will be submitted by the Working Group to NHS County Durham on or before the closing date of the consultation of 31 January 2010, and it will be ratified by the full committee at its meeting on 25th February 2010.

The Adults Well Being and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will ensure that the report on the consultation produced by the Working Group will be shared with the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, Cabinet and NHS County Durham.

### Meeting arrangements

A project Plan is to be agreed and includes dates of proposed meetings:

19th November 9.30am in Committee Room 1A

8th December 1.00pm in Committee Room 1B

13th January 2.00pm in Committee Room 1B