

**DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held at County Hall, Durham on **Monday 21 December 2009** at **10.00a.m.**

**COUNCILLOR R TODD** in the Chair.

**Members of the Committee**

Councillors R Bell, D Burn, S Iveson, P Stradling, O Temple and A Wright

**Other Members**

Councillors M Nicholls and C Walker

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Chaplow, A Savory, and T Taylor and Co-opted Members E Carr, A J Cooke, H Gibbon, R Hassoon and D Haw

**A1 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29 October 2009 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising

Minute A2 - Mental Health Service Provision in County Durham

The Committee were advised that residents would be moving into Lanchester Road Hospital on 7 and 8 January 2010.

Minute A6 - World Class Commissioning Update

The Committee were informed that the NHS County Durham Stakeholders survey had been received and was being looked at.

Minute A8 – Update on Flu Pandemic Planning

The Committee were advised that in relation to the vaccination of children it was hoped to carry out vaccinations for children aged 6 months to 5 years prior to Christmas 2009.

**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 Refresh of the NHS County Durham and Darlington Strategic Plan and QIPP**

D Gallagher, Director of Partnerships and Services gave a presentation on the refresh of the NHS County Durham and Darlington Strategic Plan and QIPP (for copy see file of Minutes).

Members were advised that as part of the World Class Commissioning Assurance Framework that assessed the commissioning direction and ability of Primary Care Trusts, NHS County Durham and Darlington had to re-refresh its five year Strategic Plan. This year's re-refresh of the Strategic Plan was also being carried out in the context of a very different funding scenario than had been the case in previous years.

Significant work had been done across the NHS in the North East to generate planning assumptions based on likely future funding scenarios that would inform the commissioning strategy.

The likely financial scenario was that NHS County Durham and Darlington would receive the same funding allocation from 2011/2012 – 2013/2014 as it would receive in 2010/2011.

This same allocation would however have to fund a considerable increase in pressure on the healthcare system that would be caused by;

- demographic changes and a growing and aging population
- new drugs and technologies approved by NICE
- inflation

This would mean current services would have to become more productive and efficiencies would need to be generated to allow continued investment in priority areas.

Whilst NHS County Durham and Darlington were not expecting a cut in its allocation, some providers of service would not receive the same level of funding as in previous years as services were re-designed to meet the health needs of the population. This would particularly be the case in areas that were not considered priorities as outlined in the joint strategic needs assessment.

The future funding scenarios would become progressively clearer following;

- the pre-budget report on 9 December 2009
- the publication of the NHS Operating Framework for 2009 (expected week commencing 21 December 2009)
- the publication of technical guidance on the acute hospital tariff (expected February 2010)

The Chair queried if there would be any effect on capital projects. The Director of Partnerships and Services advised that the operating framework outlined what would happen over the next year and beyond. Capital schemes would continue next year but beyond that was uncertain. It was pointed out that larger

schemes were not always funded from capital, however it was expected that less capital would be available over the next 5 years.

Members were given an assurance that updates on the Strategy and how it was moving forward would be provided to Members on a regular basis.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

#### **A5 Transforming Social Care Through Personalisation**

Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director, Adults Wellbeing and Health which provided an update on progress being made to change the way in which adult social care services were delivered in Durham. (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor C Walker felt that communication could be improved and queried if a DVD could be produced for residents so that everyone was aware of the current situation. P Malyan, Personalisation Development Officer, advised that the marketing and communications plan could accommodate the production of a DVD and this would be investigated.

Councillor Temple asked if there were any evaluation results from users as he was interested in their feedback and how they had responded to the changes. The Personalisation Development Officer acknowledged that from a user point of view it was important not to use unnecessary jargon but to make it easily understandable to everyone.

P Appleton, Head of Service – Policy, Planning and Performance explained that feedback from users was part of the programme and the results would be provided to Members.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted and further updates be provided.

#### **A6 Safeguarding Adults Annual Report 2008/2009**

L Alexander, Safeguarding and Practice Development Manager gave a presentation on the Safeguarding Adults Annual Report which gave an overview of the work that had been undertaken during 2008/2009 (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Chair made reference to the abuse of adults in care homes and queried as the majority of care homes were now in the private sector had the rate of inspection been improved.

The Safeguarding and Practice Development Manager advised that proactive working relationships had been established with many of the privately owned care homes. The rate of referrals was good and had increased over the last 2 years.

Councillor M Nicholls pointed out the all elected Members were actively encouraged to visit care homes throughout the County and see first hand the standards and conditions.

The Chair asked if abuse suffered in peoples own homes was mainly carried out by family members. The Safeguarding and Practice Development Manager confirmed that most abuse carried out in peoples own homes was carried out by family members or professionals who came into regular contact with vulnerable people in their own homes.

Councillor Burn explained that she regularly visited the care homes in her ward and was concerned that a recent visit to a care home in her ward, organised by the Council, had taken place and she had not been invited. Councillor Burn felt local Members should be advised when a visit was taking place in their ward.

Councillor Nicholls reiterated that all Members were entitled and encouraged to visit care homes in their areas.

The Chair suggested that the protocol should be amended and in future all visits to care homes should include an invitation to the local ward Members to attend if possible.

Councillor Stradling felt this was a reasonable request and should be undertaken for all future visits to care homes.

Councillor Bell queried what sociological abuse was. The Safeguarding and Practice Development Manager advised that this term had been dropped and was not used in the revised procedures. Instead the category of discriminatory abuse was used as this more clearly defined Abuse that was motivated by oppressive and prejudicial attitudes toward a person or group. i.e. on grounds of disability, race or religious belief. The Annual Report focussed on data captured in 2008/09, however the I.T system had been updated and all future reports would use the revised term.

**RESOLVED** that;

- (i) the information given, be noted,
- (ii) in future an invitation be extended to the local ward Members to attend organised visits to care homes within their wards.

**A7 Joint Protocol: Durham County Council; NHS County Durham and County Durham Local Involvement Network**

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Assistant Chief Executive and the Director of Adults, Wellbeing and Health which gave details of the protocol for working together in relation to plans to make changes in health and social care services. (for copy see file of Minutes).

The protocol had been developed jointly by Durham County Council; NHS County Durham and County Durham Local Involvement Network and would help to improve decision making by all parties to the protocol and contribute to improvements in health and wellbeing for the people in County Durham.

The protocol established a framework for all parties to work together in relation to service change issues and built on Overview and Scrutiny's statutory function

as consultee in relation to proposals by the NHS service to make changes in services and to agree the extent of consultation to be undertaken.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted and the Committee support the approval and adoption of the Protocol.

**A8 “Shaping the Future of Care Together” – Council’s response to the Green Paper**

Consideration was given to the report of the Assistant Chief Executive which gave details of the Council’s response to the “Shaping the future of Care Together” Green Paper, which incorporated the views of the Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and advised of an additional consultation launched by the Department of Health in respect of the “Personal Care at Home Bill” (for copy see file of Minutes).

A briefing note which outlined the funding proposals in the Governments social care reforms which were contained in the Green Paper was also circulated. The key elements of the briefing paper would be incorporated in the committee’s formal response to the Green Paper.

P Appleton, Head of Service – Policy, Planning and Performance reported that the Personal Care at Home Bill was announced in the Queens Speech on 18 November 2009. This was followed by the launch of a public consultation on proposals for regulation and guidance in relation to the Bill. Members were advised that the consultation paper was a detailed and complex document which covered many issues and would have substantial financial implications. A briefing paper would be circulated to Members and all feedback would be welcome, the Cabinet Member would also be consulted.

Councillors Stradling and Temple made reference to the payment of Disability Benefits and were advised by the Head of Service – Policy, Planning and Performance that their concerns were echoed in the Councils response.

**RESOLVED** that;

- (i) the Council’s response to the Green Paper and the comments made by the Committee be noted,
- (ii) a briefing paper in relation to the Personal Care at Home Bill be circulated to Members, and any comments received be incorporated into a response to the consultation exercise.

**A9 Forecast of Outturn 2009/2010 – Quarter 2**

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Finance, Adults, Wellbeing and Health which provided details of the Adults, Wellbeing and Health revenue and capital outturn forecast for 2009/2010 based on information at the end of the second quarter of the financial year (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor Bell commented on the large sums of money involved and expressed concern at the amount of some of the variances.

The Head of Finance, Adults, Wellbeing and Health advised that the variances were only small in percentage terms but as the budget was so large the sum of the variances reflected this.

Councillor Temple expressed concern at the reference to slippage on the Capital Programme. The Head of Finance, Adults, Wellbeing and Health explained that whilst there was some slippage on the Capital Programme it would be carried forward to next year.

**RESOLVED** that the information contained within the report, be noted.

### **A10 Regional Health Improvement Scrutiny Bids**

Consideration was given to the report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided an update on bids submitted jointly by all Councils across the region for support from the Centre for Public Scrutiny for regional scrutiny activity (for copy see file of Minutes).

The bids were to;

- (a) develop robust regional health scrutiny arrangements,
- (b) explore health needs of veterans

Members were advised that the bids made were in line with the committees work programme intentions on Action on Health Inequalities and would support and underpin the work the committee undertook. This committee had been engaged through the Chair and officers at a regional scrutiny committee meeting to agree the proposals outlined in the report.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

### **A11 Update on Mental Health Consultations – NHS County Durham and NHS South of Tyne and Wear**

Consideration was given to the report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided an update on the work of the North Easington Mental Health Services Scrutiny Working Group, which was established to respond to consultations by NHS County Durham and NHS South of Tyne and Wear (for copy see file of Minutes).

Details of the two consultations, meetings held to date and the consultation process were outlined in the report.

The Chair and Vice-Chair had participated in a joint consultation event with Sunderland and South Tyneside Councils, and the views arising from this, that were to be submitted as a response to the PRIDE consultation, were outlined.

Regarding the NHS County Durham consultation the Chair pointed out that residents in the northern part of the former Easington District had no trouble accessing Cherry Knowle Hospital however switching to Lanchester could present problems for those using public transport. This point was re-iterated by Councillor Stradling.

**RESOLVED** that;

- (i) the work of the Working Group to date be noted,
- (ii) the content of the response to the NHS South of Tyne and Wear in relation to the PRIDE consultation be approved and submitted by 31 December 2009.