

**County Durham and Darlington Joint
Health Overview and Scrutiny
Committee**



6 January 2020

**Review of Stroke Rehabilitation
services in County Durham and
Darlington**

Report of Corporate Management Team

**John Hewitt, Corporate Director of Resources, Durham County
Council**

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide members of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee with information regarding the statutory consultation process in respect of the review of Stroke Rehabilitation services in County Durham and Darlington.

Executive summary

- 2 Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Councils' Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee have previously met on a number of occasions to consider proposals by North Durham CCG, Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield CCG and Darlington CCG in respect of the review of Stroke Rehabilitation services in County Durham and Darlington.
- 3 Both Committees have received details of the future service models being consulted upon in respect of Stroke Rehabilitation services in County Durham and Darlington which were considered alongside the consultation and communications plans for the review.
- 4 The consultations in respect of the review commenced on Monday 7 October 2019.
- 5 Correspondence was received from the Regional Director (North East and Yorkshire) of NHS England which indicated that, as part of their assurance process in respect of the proposed review, they require the

consultation to be considered by a joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee comprising representatives from Darlington Borough Council and Durham County Council.

- 6 This joint OSC comprising 25 members (21 from Durham and 4 from Darlington) politically balanced at individual local authority level was therefore established to provide the required assurance to NHS England in respect of the consultation process. The Joint Committee was to be chaired by Durham and would not have the power of referral to the Secretary of State delegated to it as this would be retained with the respective individual Councils.
- 7 Following the announcement of the UK General Election on 12 December 2019, NHS North Durham, NHS Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield and NHS Darlington CCGs paused the public consultation so that election purdah guidance is not breached.
- 8 Representatives of NHS North Durham, NHS Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield and NHS Darlington CCGs will be in attendance to provide members with an update presentation setting out the background to the service review, the proposals being consulted upon, the consultation and communications plans and the details of public facing consultation events. A copy of the presentation slides is attached to this report. (Appendix 2)

Recommendations

- 9 Members of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to:-
 - a) Receive this report;
 - b) Consider and comment on the information detailed with in the presentation provided by representatives of NHS North Durham, NHS Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield and NHS Darlington CCGs.

Background

- 10 Under Section 244 of the NHS Act 2006, local NHS bodies have a duty to consult local Overview and Scrutiny Committees on proposals for any substantial development of the health service or substantial variation in the provision in their areas. Scrutiny Committees are also required to consider the extent of consultation undertaken.

Stroke Rehabilitation Services in County Durham and Darlington

- 11 Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Councils' respective Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees have received a presentation setting out the rationale for a review of stroke rehabilitation services. The presentation set the context of stroke rehabilitation within the previous review undertaken of acute stroke services which led to the centralisation of acute stroke services at University Hospital North Durham (UHND).
- 12 At that meeting members were advised that a major driver to review services was below target performance in respect of the number of patients treated by a stroke skilled early supported discharge team – 2.6% for North Durham CCG and 3.5% for DDES CCG against a national average of 35%.
- 13 There were also concerns that the average length of stay for stroke rehabilitation patients at Bishop Auckland Hospital was far in excess of best practice. There was also evidence of a limited availability of healthcare professional input as part of the stroke pathway particularly in respect of occupational therapy; speech and language therapy and physiotherapy.
- 14 CCGs and County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation trust reported upon plans to undertake patient and stakeholder engagement as part of the review and committed to bringing details of the proposed engagement activity back to the respective Health Scrutiny Committees.
- 15 Further reports were considered which set out details of the proposed engagement activity which included discussions with patient reference groups across County Durham; bespoke engagement led by Healthwatch County Durham with stroke patients and their carers and families; specialist health networks; established stroke groups and the Durham County Council's Area Action Partnerships.
- 16 The activity would include a call for evidence to review best practice in respect of stroke rehabilitation services and understand where improvements could be made. This would also require gathering the experiences of local people and those established stroke support groups which would inform a service improvement project.
- 17 It was anticipated at the time that this work would be completed within 12 weeks and a report brought back to the Committees.
- 18 Key emerging themes were that patients had positive experiences of the acute hospital stroke service; there was limited dedicated community-based stroke provision; patients felt too many people were involved in their care; care closer to home would be valued along with peer support.

- 19 The engagement activity had also identified gaps within existing stroke rehabilitation services which included that the current pathway promoted multiple transfers of care; therapy assessment takes place within a hospital setting rather than in the person's home setting; community-based rehab services are inequitable across County Durham; rehabilitation within the community does not provide the intensity required as detailed in national guidance and that patient based outcomes could be improved upon e.g. time for therapy-based interventions.
- 20 The final report detailing the findings from the engagement activity highlighted that, in addition to the issues previously identified, there were communication challenges at various points of the current stroke pathway. Patients wanted emotional wellbeing and support particularly after discharge from hospital with a more consistent community rehabilitation service provided which would include a longer period of therapy once discharged from hospital.
- 21 The findings of the engagement activity were discussed at a meeting with a range of clinical staff to further develop options and appraise these against standard criteria which includes clinical evidence base, accessibility and financial sustainability. This exercise included representation from both community and hospital-based clinicians, primary care, regional clinical network and the Stroke Association and the views of patients and carers will also be included.

Latest Position

- 22 The consultations in respect of the review commenced on Monday 7 October 2019.
- 23 The Local Authority (Public Health, Health and wellbeing boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 as they relate to the National Health Service Act 2006 governing the local authority health scrutiny function requires proposals for significant developments or substantial variations in health services which are being consulted upon and which affect two or more local authorities to be considered by a joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 24 Correspondence was received from the Regional Director (North East and Yorkshire) of NHS England which indicated that, as part of their assurance process in respect of the proposed reviews, they require the consultation to be considered by a joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee comprising representatives from Darlington Borough Council and Durham County Council.
- 25 This joint OSC comprising 25 members (21 from Durham and 4 from Darlington) politically balanced at individual local authority level was

therefore established to provide the required assurance to NHS England in respect of the consultation process. The Joint Committee was to be chaired by Durham and would not have the power of referral to the Secretary of State delegated to it as this would be retained with the respective individual Councils.

- 26 Following the announcement of the UK General Election on 12 December 2019, NHS North Durham, NHS Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgfield and NHS Darlington CCGs paused the public consultation so that election purdah guidance is not breached.
- 27 Representatives of NHS North Durham, NHS Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgfield and NHS Darlington CCGs will be in attendance to provide members with an update presentation setting out the background to the service review, the proposals being consulted upon, the consultation and communications plans and the details of public facing consultation events.

Main implications

Legal

- 28 This report has been produced in accordance with the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and wellbeing boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 as they relate to the National Health Service Act 2006 governing the local authority health scrutiny function.

Consultation

- 29 The consultation process for the review started on 7 October 2019 and has been paused due to the General Election purdah period. An update will be provided to members at the meeting.

Conclusion

- 30 Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Councils' Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees have previously met on several occasions to consider proposals by North Durham CCG, Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgfield CCG and Darlington CCG in respect of the review of Stroke Rehabilitation services in County Durham and Darlington.
- 31 In order to comply with the assurance process set out by NHS England (North East and Yorkshire) in respect of the proposed consultation, this Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee comprising representatives from Darlington Borough Council and Durham County Council was established.

Background papers

- Agenda, Minutes and Reports to Durham County Council's Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 2 May 2018, 6 July 2018, 15 November 2018, 18 January 2019 and 6 September 2019.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

This report has been produced in accordance with the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and wellbeing boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 as they relate to the National Health Service Act 2006 governing the local authority health scrutiny function.

Finance

Not applicable

Consultation

The report and presentation set out the proposals and associated statutory consultation in respect of the review of Stroke Rehabilitation services in County Durham and Darlington.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Not applicable.

Human Rights

Not applicable

Climate Change

Not applicable

Crime and Disorder

Not applicable

Staffing

Not applicable

Accommodation

Not applicable

Risk

Not applicable

Procurement

Not applicable