

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



**6 January 2020**

**Review of Inpatient Rehabilitation  
services at Bishop Auckland Hospital  
(Ward 6)**

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**Report of Corporate Management Team**

**John Hewitt, Corporate Director of Resources**

**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 Inpatient Rehabilitation services at Bishop Auckland Hospital (Ward 6).

**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 Inpatient Rehabilitation services at Bishop Auckland Hospital (Ward 6).
- 3 Both Committees have received details of the future service models being consulted upon in respect of Inpatient Rehabilitation services at Bishop Auckland Hospital (Ward 6) 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. (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 within 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.

## **Inpatient Rehabilitation services at Bishop Auckland Hospital (Ward 6)**

- 11 At its meeting held on 15 November 2018 Durham County Council's Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee,

following initial concerns reported within media that ward 6 was planned for closure, received a report and presentation by County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust which provided an overview on the current usage of ward 6; the national and local policy context which highlighted a need to review the current model of care and information regarding ongoing staff consultation in respect of ward 6.

- 12 At its meeting on 18 January 2019, the Committee considered staff consultation feedback in respect of the services currently provided at ward 6 Bishop Auckland Hospital and staff thoughts on what future service provision might look like. Members also received the results of a service evaluation exercise undertaken with ward 6 patients which asked for patients to describe their experience on the ward. This information included admission information, home address, length of stay on ward 6, care ratings, patient involvement in their care and post discharge support.
- 13 At that meeting, the Committee also considered the outcomes of “Rapid Process Improvement Workshops” (RPIWs) undertaken by the Trust during November 2018 which examined current care pathways against best practice models of care. Members were also advised of the outline timetable to support the development of an associated communications and engagement plan which would feed into the development of options for a future model of care.
- 14 The RPIWs and staff consultation identified several considerations namely:
  - (a) A continued need for care in Bishop Auckland Hospital;
  - (b) A need for therapy input for the patient cohort currently using Ward 6
  - (c) The need to standardise the model of care in line with the other community hospitals in County Durham;
  - (d) Areas of service provision that are not operating in line with best practice
- 15 The RPIWs have provided real patient scenarios that the Foundation Trust planned, with partners, to use to engage with patients, carers and the public. CDDFT submitted a workplan request to Healthwatch County Durham for support in undertaking this work which would seek wider patient and public views and opinions to help shape options for the future model of care which would deliver the best possible patient experience and outcomes for our local populations.
- 16 In accordance with the recommendations agreed by the Committee at its meeting on 18 January 2019, representatives of County Durham

CCGs and County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust attended the Committee's meeting on 6 September 2019 to provide members with a presentation setting out the proposed plans for patient and stakeholder consultation together with the options for future service model that are planned to be consulted upon in respect of ward 6 Bishop Auckland Hospital.

- 17 In view of the impact of the proposals on some patients from Darlington Borough that accessed inpatient rehabilitation services via Ward 6 Bishop Auckland Hospital, a report was considered by the Borough Council's Health and Partnerships Committee on 29 August 2019.

### **Latest Position**

- 18 The consultations in respect of the review commenced on Monday 7 October 2019.
- 19 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
- 20 Correspondence has been received from the Regional Director (North East and Yorkshire) of NHS England which confirms 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.
- 21 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.
- 22 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.
- 23 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.

## **Main implications**

### *Legal*

- 24 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*

- 25 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**

- 26 Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Councils' Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees have previously met to consider proposals by North Durham CCG, Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield CCG and Darlington CCG in respect of the Review of Inpatient Rehabilitation services at Bishop Auckland Hospital (Ward 6).
- 27 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 Overview and Scrutiny Committee comprising representatives from Darlington Borough Council and Durham County Council was established.

## **Background papers**

- Agenda, Minutes and Reports to the 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.
- Agenda Minutes and Reports to the Darlington Borough Council's Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee held on 29 August 2019.

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **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 Inpatient Rehabilitation services at Bishop Auckland Hospital (Ward 6).

### **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