

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

ADULTS, WELLBEING AND HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of **Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in Committee Room 2 - County Hall, Durham on **Tuesday 24 July 2012 at 11.00 am**

Present:

Councillor R Todd (Chair)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors J Chaplow, J Bailey, R Bell, J Brown, B Brunskill, P Stradling and O Temple

Co-opted Members:

Mrs R Hassoon and Mr P Irving

Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Armstrong, D Burn, A Cox, R Crute, K Davidson, P Gittins, A Savory and Mrs H Gibbon

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the meetings held on 16 April, 25 May and 26 June 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair, subject to the following amendments:

- 25 May 2012 – Councillors R Bell and B Brunskill being shown as in attendance.
- 26 June 2012 – apologies for absence from Councillor R Todd being recorded.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties

Cervical Screening Recalls

Mary Bewley, NHS County Durham provided the Committee with an update regarding the recall of patients of Bewick Crescent Surgery, Newton Aycliffe for cervical screening as follows:

- On 18 and 19 June 2012 935 letters were sent by the PCT inviting women who were registered patients to attend for a recall test. Of these, 5 women were pregnant and their letters informed them of the recall and the need to have a test carried out three months after giving birth.
- As at 13 July, 458 women had attended Bewick Crescent Surgery for a recall test, 73 had made contact with the practice or the PCT and made a decision not to have the test and 10 women had attended the practice did not require a recall test.

- The database was currently being updated to record tests taken since 13 July 2012 in preparation for reminder letters to be sent.
- There were currently no issues regarding the availability of appointments.
- All County Durham and Darlington and non-County Durham and Darlington practices that had a patient who could potentially require recall had been sent details of the recall and the patients who required review and possible recall. This included 17 women registered at a GP surgery in Darlington and 40 women registered at a GP surgery in County Durham. 52 women were no longer registered with NHS County Durham and Darlington and information had been sent via NHS net to practice managers.

Dental Sedation

The Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer informed the Committee that Members had been circulated with copies of proposals by NHS Tees and NHS County Durham and Darlington to re-procure Dental Anxiety Management and Sedation Services.

Under the proposed re-commissioning the Service would be remodelled to provide 3 Tier 1 Sedation Services – 1 in Redcar/Middlesbrough, 1 in Hartlepool/Stockton and 1 in County Durham and Darlington, and 1 Tier 2 Service for the whole of NHS Tees and NHS County Durham and Darlington. Existing dental practices that provided these services as part of their core service would not be affected. A consultation and communications plan had been agreed by the Trusts.

The proposals had been discussed at the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee and were accepted by that body. The Chairman of the Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer had attended the meeting of the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee when the proposals were discussed.

The proposals would deliver geographic equity of service, improved choice in Tier 1 service, reduced waiting times, increased capacity for treatment and extended access and increased appointment times.

In response to a question from the Chairman of the Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding why Tier 2 services would need to remain concentrated in Stockton, advice given by commissioners was that a soft market testing exercise had been undertaken and no expressions of interest for these services were submitted from within Durham or Darlington. The reason given for this was that providers felt that the level of demand for these services was commercially unviable.

Although the deadline for comment had passed, the Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer informed the Committee that NHS Tees had indicated their willingness to accept comments from the Committee by email.

Momentum Project

Mary Bewley, NHS County Durham provided the Committee with an update on the relocation of Outpatient Services from University Hospital Hartlepool to One Life Centre, Hartlepool.

Ms Bewley informed the Committee that NHS Hartlepool and Stockton on Tees CCG were postponing any plans to relocate outpatient services from the University Hospital of Hartlepool to One Life Hartlepool until thorough discussion had taken place with members of the public in Hartlepool and Hartlepool health Scrutiny Forum. NHS Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield CCG was working with NHS Tees, NHS Hartlepool and Stockton on Tees CCG and North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust to develop a planned and co-ordinated approach to engaging with communities in south and east Durham and in Hartlepool. The communications and engagement plan would be brought back to this Committee

In reply to a question from Councillor Stradling, Ms Bewley reported that details of the communications and engagement plan should be available around September.

Councillor Todd reported that previous joint working with Hartlepool Scrutiny had been on an ad hoc basis and that this should be more on a formal basis of a joint committee, to be convened when there were issues which overlapped both Hartlepool and south and east Durham areas. This was endorsed by Councillor Stradling. The Committee agreed that Councillor Todd write to the Chair of Hartlepool Health Scrutiny Forum regarding the establishment of a joint Health Scrutiny Committee involving Hartlepool Borough and Durham County Councillors.

Children's Occupational Therapy Services

Mary Bewley, NHS County Durham provided the Committee with an update on Occupational Therapy Services for children and young people provided by County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust.

A review of Occupational Therapy services provided by all providers was carried out in December 2011. The review aimed to review the processes and systems of Occupational Therapy in order to determine how services could be provided which ensured the services provided gave value for money, were equitable and ensured patients were seen according to clinical need.

The results of the review identified a number of issues that needed to be resolved in order to achieve this. This included the capacity of the service to deal with a higher than expected volume of referrals and the impact this had on waiting times, diagnosis and interventions.

As a result, an agreement was made between the commissioners and CDDFT that from the 16th of April 2012 a temporary hold would be put on new referrals to OT pending implementation of new criteria for referrals to resolve the issues identified. 26 children and young people had their referral put on hold. This was an average of 13 referrals per month that were being put on hold. However the Head of the OT service indicated that referrals often increased at the end of school terms and expected to see an additional 20 referrals in July. This was an interim measure only, and was not a removal of the service.

This involved working closely with CDDFT to ensure the problem was overcome. As from the 1st August a revised service model would be in place and parents would start to receive information on the arrangements for their child.

Resolved:

1. That the information regarding Cervical screening recalls and Childrens' Occupational Therapy services be noted.
2. That the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee welcome the proposed additional Tier 1 Dental sedation services to be re-procured by NHS Tees and NHS County Durham and Darlington and agree to the proposals for Tier 2 Dental sedation services.
3. That Councillor Todd write to the Chair of Hartlepool Health Scrutiny Forum proposing the establishment of a joint Health Scrutiny Committee involving Hartlepool Borough and Durham County Councillors

4 Media Relations

The Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer showed examples of press articles relating to Adults, Wellbeing and Health which related to:

- Reductions in resource allocation for Public Health funding, at a level of approximately £20m for County Durham.
- An update regarding cervical cancer screening.
- The £10m development of Seaham Primary Care Centre.

Councillor Temple expressed concern at the ACRA report on Public Health funding. There was a need to respond around the methodology used in the funding formula rather than just complain about the proposed level of funding. There was a need for engagement at a political level to try to influence this funding, as well as by officers.

Peter Appleton, Head Of Planning and Service Strategy, Children and Adults Services informed the Committee that regional work on the issue of Public Health funding was ongoing and the Regional Director of Public Health was considering various formulas to propose as an alternative. The Head of Planning and service Strategy added that the issue of Public Health funding was being considered by Cabinet at its meeting today.

The Overview and Scrutiny Manager informed the Committee that responses to the ACRA proposals for Public Health funding were required by 14 August 2012 and suggested that a special meeting of the Committee be convened this deadline for a response from the Committee to be agreed.

Resolved:

4. That the media presentation be noted.
5. That a special meeting of the Committee be convened to agree a response to ACRA proposals for Public Health funding.

5 North East Ambulance Service - Reconfiguration of Emergency Ambulance Services

The Committee considered a report of and received a presentation from Mark Cotton, Assistant Director of Communications and Engagement, North East Ambulance Service on the reconfiguration of emergency ambulance services (for copy report and slides see file of Minutes).

Reference was made to the previous concerns on this issue expressed by the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 9 March 2012. At that time, assurances were sought that NEAS would engage fully and extensively within those localities that were to be affected by the proposed reconfiguration. To this end, the report detailed the extent of the engagement undertaken by NEAS particularly with the Council's Area Action Partnerships.

In respect of the arrangements for Durham Dales, Mr Cotton reported that in Weardale and Teesdale, the double-crewed ambulances were staffed by two paramedics. This is a consequence of a public consultation completed in 2009. NHS County Durham pay a supplement over and above the contract value to NEAS in excess of £600,000 to deliver the existing service in the Durham Dales.

He also indicated that these ambulance crews were "ring-fenced" to the Durham Dales area. Across the rest of the region NEAS employs a dynamic deployment protocol where vehicles move to stand-by points to be available for calls nearby. This does not happen in the Dales and frequently the Dales vehicles are unused while other vehicles across the region are busy and under pressure. This meant that service provision across the County Durham area is inequitable because at present double-crewed ambulances everywhere except Weardale and Teesdale were staffed by a paramedic or advanced technician and a support worker. Members were advised that the A&E review to be implemented in April 2013 proposes that every vehicle will be staffed by a paramedic and support worker, but the existing arrangements in the Dales would continue to remain in place as things stand at present as a consequence of having been agreed through a public consultation.

In considering the position within the Durham Dales, the Committee stressed that whilst NEAS might wish to consider amended these arrangements, this could only be done following an extensive full and formal public consultation exercise.

Berenice Groves, Programme Director NHS 111 Service North East and Deputy Director Unplanned Care NHS County Durham and Darlington reported that at a recent meeting Rural Ambulance Monitoring Group agreement was given to carry out a formal evaluation of the current Ambulance service provision in the Dales to evaluate the qualitative impact this project has had. This would supplement the existing monitoring arrangements around performance and any breaches as well as the implementation of the project to ensure staff were recruited and trained to carry out roles which could integrate with primary and urgent care. It was reported that this evaluation would be undertaken by an independent body.

The Committee welcomed the proposed evaluation detailed above and suggested that this should be carried out in conjunction with and overseen by the Rural Ambulance Monitoring Group, who could then in turn report back to the Committee on this process.

Resolved:

1. That the feedback from the Area Action Partnerships and other organisations in relation to the reconfiguration of Accident and Emergency Ambulance services within the region be noted;
2. That the Committee support North East Ambulance Service in implementing the proposed changes by April 2013 to maintain ambulance performance standards

and to begin to bring the county up to the same level of performance as other parts of the North East;

3. That the Committee support the proposed evaluation of current Ambulance service provision that has been commissioned by NHS County Durham, and that this should be carried out in conjunction with and overseen by the Rural Ambulance Monitoring Group, who will report back to the Committee on this process .
4. That the Committee note that the future of the provision of ambulance services within County Durham, including the skill mix of crews and the ring fencing of resources currently in place for Weardale and Teesdale may be subject to further consideration, following the conclusion of the proposed evaluation process referred to in (3) above;
5. Notwithstanding (4) above, the Committee stresses that no changes will be made to existing Ambulance service provision within the Durham Dales Area without first being subject to an extensive and robust public consultation exercise.

6 Review of Hyper Acute Stroke Services - Update

The Committee received a presentation from Edmund Lovell, Assistant Director of Communications and Dr Bernard Esisi, Consultant Physician, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust which provided an update following the review of Hyper Acute Stroke Services in County Durham and Darlington (for copy of slides see file of Minutes).

The Committee was informed that following the reconfiguration of the Hyper Acute Stroke Service to a single site at UHND there had been significant improvements in performance relating to access to CT scans and the stroke unit, thrombolysis and therapy which had contributed to a reduction in the length of stay at UNHD, improved patient experience and staff morale.

Councillor Todd welcomed the presentation and the progress made in Hyper Acute Stroke Service provision and requested that a further update be presented to the Committee in another 12 months. Councillor Bell, while welcoming the update, requested that future updates include a breakdown of figures for those patients from the Darlington area.

Resolved:

1. That the update presentation be noted
2. That a further update be brought to Committee in 12 months time
3. That future updates include a breakdown of figures for those patients from the Darlington area.

7 NHS Quality Accounts 2011/12

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided information on the responses made on behalf of the Committee in respect of NHS Partners' Draft Quality Accounts 2011/12 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted and the responses to NHS Organisations draft Quality Accounts be endorsed.

8 Quarter 4 2011/12 Performance Management Report

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive that presented progress against the Council's corporate basket of performance indicators and reported other significant performance issues for the fourth quarter of 2011/12 for the Altogether Healthier theme (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

9 Forecast of Revenue Outturn Report - 2011/12

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Finance, Financial Services which provided details of the Adults, Wellbeing and Health revenue and capital outturn for 2011/12 both at a service expenditure analysis and a Head of Service level (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor Temple expressed concern that Forecast of Revenue Outturn Reports were often placed towards the end of the Committee's agenda which did not allow for full and in-depth scrutiny of items contained within them. Councillor Stradling replied that while he appreciated the point raised by Councillor Temple, some reports would always be lower down the agenda than others. He suggested that for one or two meetings each year, this report be placed higher on the agenda which would allow for greater scrutiny of items contained within it. Mr Irving agreed with both Councillors Stradling and Temple that the information contained in the report needed time for consideration.

It was suggested that a session be organised for Members of the Committee at which the issues of strategic finance and budget management/outturn expenditure could be fully discussed. This would both provide clarity to members around these issues and would also allow for increased scrutiny to take place.

Resolved:

That the report be noted and a session to be organised to discuss the issues of strategic finance and budget management/outturn expenditure.

10 Council Plan 2012/2016 - Refresh of Work Programme for Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive that provided an updated work programme for the Committee for 2012-13 (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer informed the Committee that the work programme items were shown at Appendix 2 to the report. He further reported that a

consultation paper on Local Authority Health Scrutiny had been received on 19 July 2012 and recommended that a special meeting of the Committee be convened to consider a response to this consultation.

Resolved:

That the new work programme be agreed, and a special meeting of the Committee be convened to consider the Department of Health consultation paper on Local Authority Health Scrutiny with a view to formulating a response to the paper.