

## **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 **Monday 13 August 2012 at 10.00 am**

#### **Present:**

**Councillor R Todd (Chair)**

#### **Members of the Committee:**

Councillors J Chaplow, J Alvey, J Armstrong, J Bailey, R Bell, P Gittins, A Savory, P Stradling and A Wright

#### **Co-opted Members:**

Mrs H Gibbon and Mrs R Hassoon

#### **Apologies:**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Burn, A Cox, R Crute, K Davidson, T Taylor, O Temple and Mr P Irving

### **1 Declarations of Interest**

Mrs H Gibbon declared an interest as an officer of Age UK who received funding to deliver public health functions.

### **2 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Update on Public Health Funding'**

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided an update on progress in producing a response to the Department of Health report "Healthy Lives, Health People : Update of Public Health Funding"(for copy see file of Minutes). The Committee also received a joint presentation from Paul Darby, Head of Finance (Financial Services), Durham County Council, Claire Sullivan, Consultant in Public Health, Primary Care Trust and Julie Young – Public Health Accountant on the "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Update on Public Health Funding" (for copy of slides see file of minutes).

The deadline for receipt of responses was 14 August 2012. The Head of Finance advised Members that the draft response was currently with the Chief Executive and that the Primary Care Trust and Department of Public Health would be submitting their own response. He also advised Members that the membership of the Advisory Committee and Resource Allocation was not known but it was believed that there was no representation from Local Government.

Councillor Todd advised Members that he and the Overview and Scrutiny Manager had attended a regional meeting in Sunderland at which Professor Kelly had talked about the proposed new formula and its' financial impact on Durham.

Councillor R Bell informed the Committee that the focus of the response should be to concentrate on flaws in the proposed ACRA formula, especially around the issue of how the issue of deprivation was being factored in to any funding formula. The Head of Finance responded that the proposed ACRA formula used SMR's to rank areas.

Councillor Armstrong expressed his disappointment that the consultation was being brought to Committee the day before the deadline for a response to the ACRA proposals, and asked whether the author of the ACRA proposals was known. The proposed reduction of funding for Public Health would impact on jobs, housing and wellbeing and cross party support was needed to oppose these reductions.

Councillor Todd informed the Committee that the Public Health prevention strategy, in which so much had been invested in County Durham, would suffer if the proposed reductions in Public Health funding were implemented. He indicated that any formula needed to reflect the health needs of the communities and asked that the Committee support the Authority's response.

Councillor Bell suggested that, as well as a response from the Authority, a separate response from this Committee could be made.

**Resolved:**

1. That the Committee note the information contained within the presentation and comments upon the work being undertaken to respond to the Department of Health "Healthy Lives, Healthy People : Update on Public Health Funding" publication and the recommendations of the ACRA detailed therein.
2. That the Overview and Scrutiny Manager discuss with the Chair of the Committee a response of the Committee and that this response be shared with Members in due course.

### **3 Health and Social Care Act 2012 and the implications for Health Overview and Scrutiny**

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive that examined the implications for Health Overview and Scrutiny of NHS Reforms presented in the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

The report explained how Health Scrutiny had developed in County Durham and invited consideration of how relationships could be developed between the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the emerging Clinical Commissioning Groups, the shadow Health and Wellbeing Board and local HealthWatch as well as wider NHS and Social Care providers (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor Todd informed the Committee that there was going to be a lot of work ahead, adding that in the past there was a single PCT but in future would be 2 Clinical Commissioning Groups to work with within County Durham.

**Resolved:** That the report be noted and the following recommendations be progressed:-

- (a) That Durham County Council discharge its powers of review and scrutiny on such matters as designated within the Health and Social Care Act 2012, which may be subject to Regulation and Guidance from the Department of Health, through the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- (b) Arrangements be made for an information sharing presentation to be given to the Clinical Commissioning Groups and the shadow Health and Wellbeing Board detailing the role, function approach and work programme of the County Council's Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and how this contributes to the Health agenda in County Durham.
- (c) Clinical Commissioning Groups be invited to share their draft "Clear and Credible Plans" for future commissioning arrangements with the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the earliest opportunity.
- (d) each Clinical Commissioning Group be asked to identify a nominated representative to act as liaison officer with the Council's Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- (e) the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board be invited to share the refreshed JSNA and the ongoing work in developing the Joint Health and Wellbeing strategy with the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- (f) examples of good practice in respect of the Partnerships approach to Health scrutiny shown by the County Council and NHS Partners be used as the foundation for future health scrutiny arrangements following NHS reform.
- (g) Those Public Health services that are transferred across to the Council as part of the NHS/Public Health reforms be subject to existing Overview and Scrutiny arrangements that apply to Council services and that the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee have responsibility for this function, while recognising that the Public Health service is a cross-cutting service and may be required to input into other Overview and Scrutiny activity.
- (h) A protocol for working together be developed between the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and key stakeholders, including the National Commissioning Board, Health and Wellbeing Board, Clinical Commissioning Groups, HealthWatch, NHS Partners and the Adults Wellbeing and Health service grouping. The protocol could include information sharing, communication, engagement reporting mechanisms and organisational liaison.
- (i) Arrangements be made for a special meeting of the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the Department of Health

consultation on Local Authority Health Scrutiny as referred to in paragraph 27 of the report.

#### **4 Department of Health Consultation - Local Authority Health Scrutiny**

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which outlined the main provisions of the Department of Health consultation paper on local authority health scrutiny (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Overview and Scrutiny Manager informed the Committee that the consultation period ended on 7 September 2012 and that he required comments by the end of the week.

Councillor Stradling referred to the first referral stage to the NHSCB and felt that Scrutiny should refer to the Secretary of State and not full Council. Councillor Armstrong agreed with Councillor Stradling.

Councillor Wright asked if all Members were responsible for raising concerns how this would be achieved if they were not a Member of Scrutiny. The Overview and Scrutiny Manager responded that the consultation element was an open meeting and all Members were able to attend.

The Chairman indicated that they needed to engage with the new groups. Councillor Armstrong responded that they had worked hard to have a good working relationship with the NHS and they needed to build on this. The Overview and Scrutiny Manager advised Members that this would be done.

The Head of Policy, Planning and Performance referred to Financial Sustainability of Services and indicated that this was a big area for Scrutiny which was to carry out an executive role which was a role conflict with Scrutiny

Councillor Todd advised Members that a Special Meeting of the Committee would be arranged to consider further information as and when it was made available.

#### **Resolved:**

That a corporate response to the consultation, based upon the views and comments of the Committee be made and submitted by the deadline (7 September 2012), and that this response is shared with the Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for information.