

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 15 April 2013 at 10.00 am**

Present:

Councillor R Todd (Chair)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors J Alvery, J Armstrong and O Temple.

Co-opted Members:

B Carr, H Gibbon and R Hassoon

Also Present:

Councillors L Hovvels, B Myers and M Nicholls

The Chairman informed the Committee that the meeting was not quorate and that any item of business which was not for information would be considered at the next meeting.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Bell, P Brookes, D Burn, R Crute, A Savory, W Stelling, P Stradling, T Taylor and Mrs M Thompson.

2 Substitute Members

There were no substitute Members in attendance.

3 Minutes

The Chairman informed the Committee that because the meeting was not quorate the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2013 could not be approved and would be brought to the next meeting of the Committee.

Matters Arising

The Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer provided the Committee with an update on the following items from the last meeting:

- Minute No. 7 – Review of Children’s Therapy Services - a joint response from the Committee and Darlington Borough Council’s Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee had been provided to NHS County Durham and Darlington to confirm support for the re-commissioning of Children’s Therapy Services.
- Minute No. 14 – GP Practices in Horden - details of the community consultation which had been carried out regarding the proposed merger of three GP Practices in the Horden area was awaited.

4 Minutes

The Committee noted the Minutes of the Special Joint meeting of the Safer and Stronger Communities, Adults, Wellbeing and Health and Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 29 January 2013.

5 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

6 Items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties

Mrs Hassoon requested an update on the establishment of Healthwatch in County Durham.

Denise Elliott, Strategic Commissioning Manager Lead, Adults, Wellbeing and Health informed the Committee that the contract for Healthwatch in County Durham had been awarded to the Carers Federation with effect from 1 April 2013. The current position regarding Healthwatch County Durham was as follows:

- Healthwatch was meeting with Commissioners on a weekly basis to take forward a work programme
- The majority of staff posts had been filled with the exception of one post which was subject to further discussions with the Carers Federation.
- Adverts would be placed for the posts of Chair and Executive Board Members.
- Discussions were taking place with the Enter and View Committee of LiNK to ensure it was willing to continue in this function. However, national guidance on the role of the Committee was awaited.
- Healthwatch had its own branding and the first Healthwatch newsletter had been produced last Friday.

The Strategic Commissioning Manager Lead informed the Committee that there had been a delay around the remit of Healthwatch regarding the signposting element of the Patient Advice Liaison Service (PALS) and further clarity on this was needed.

Mrs Carr informed the Committee that she had recently attended a conference at Leeds at which concerns had been raised around the social

enterprise aspect of Healthwatch, its sustainability and whether it would need to fundraise.

The Overview and Scrutiny Manager informed the Committee that it had received regular updates on NHS reforms and that a Healthwatch representative would be a member of the Health and Wellbeing Board, with discussions ongoing to ensure a Healthwatch representative would be a Co-optee on this Committee.

7 Annual Report of the Director of Public Health, County Durham and Director of Public Health, Darlington 2012/12

The Committee noted a report of the Director of Public Health County Durham which presented the joint 2011/12 annual report of the Director of Public Health, County Durham and the Director of Public Health, Darlington (for copy see file of Minutes). The Director of Public Health informed the Committee that a full copy of the report was available in the Members Library.

The Director of Public Health County Durham informed the Committee that this would be the final joint report of the Directors of Public Health for County Durham and Darlington as both Council's now had their own Directors.

The report captured progress made since 2006 and identified further work and challenges. It was a statutory requirement to produce the report and a duty to publish the report under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

The Director of Public Health County Durham highlighted the areas of the report which related specifically to alcohol issues, poor nutrition and poor health, tobacco, levels of obesity and rates of cardio vascular disease and cancer.

The Chairman thanked the Director of Public Health County Durham for her presentation which had highlighted the major health issues which faced County Durham, subject to resources being made available. The issues mentioned in the presentation would feature in the Work Programme of the Committee.

8 NHS Reforms and the Transfer of Public Health Functions to Durham County Council

The Committee noted a joint report of the Assistant Chief Executive, Corporate Director of Children and Adults Services and the Director of Public Health County Durham which provided an update on developments in relation to NHS reforms, including the transfer of public health functions to Durham County Council from NHS County Durham (for copy see file of Minutes).

9 NHS Foundation Trust 2012/13 Quality Accounts

The Committee noted a report of the Assistant Chief Executive (for copy see file of Minutes) which reported the process for the preparation of the 2012/13 Quality Accounts for the following:

- County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust
- Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust
- North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust

The Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer informed the Committee that due to the County Council elections being held on 2 May 2013 and Committee Members not being appointed until the the Annual County Council Meeting on 2 May 2013 comments would be drafted on behalf of the Committee.

The comments, which would include areas of work the Committee had been engaged in, would be developed into formal responses to the Quality Accounts. These comments would be signed off by the Chairman of the Committee, once appointed, and reported retrospectively to the next meeting of the Committee in July 2013.

The Committee commented that, due to the imminent County Council elections, this was a reasonable solution to the Committee commenting on the Quality Accounts.

10 Quarter 3 2012/13 Performance Management Report

The Committee noted a report of the Assitant Chief Executive which presented progress against the Council's corporate basket of performance indicators for the Altogether Healthier theme and reported other significant performance issues for the third quarter of 2012/13 (for copy see file of Minutes).

11 Quarter 3 Revenue and Capital Outturn 2012/13

The Committee noted a report of, and received a presentation from, the Finance Manager, Resources which provided details of the forecast outturn position for the former Adults, Wellbeing and Health service grouping and highlighted material variances between the approved revenue and capital budgets and outturn, based on the position at the end of December 2012 (for copy of report and slides see file of Minutes).

12 Local Authority Health Scrutiny – Proposed Changes to the Council's Constitution

The Committee noted a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which advised Members of changes to the Constitution of the Council relating to local authority health scrutiny which were agreed at the County Council Meeting held on 20 March 2013 (for copy see file of Minutes).

13 Refresh of the Work Programme for the Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Committee noted a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided Members with information contained within the Council Plan 2013 – 2017 relevant to the work of the Committee which provided the opportunity for Members to refresh the Committee Work Programme to reflect the three objectives and subsequent actions identified within the Council Plan for the Council's 'Altogether Healthier' priority theme (for copy see file on Minutes).

The Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer informed the Committee that a draft Work Programme would be presented to its meeting in July. Prior to the July meeting, induction sessions would be held for all newly appointed Members to Overview and Scrutiny Committees, and within these sessions Members would be invited to comment on the Work Programmes for all Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Councillor Armstrong commented that this was a reasonable action for the development of the Work Programme, but added that it was important to ensure there was sufficient capacity within the Scrutiny Team to deliver on any agreed Programme.

The Chairman informed the Committee that this was the last meeting of the Committee before the County Council elections in May 2013 and thanked all Members and Co-optees who had taken part in the Committee for their participation, and Overview and Scrutiny Officers for their support. He also thanked the Overview and Scrutiny Manager, who was due to retire, for his support to, and assistance with, the work of the Committee.