

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Tuesday 30 June 2015 at 9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor S Forster in the Chair

Members of the Committee:

Councillors J Chaplow, M Davinson, K Hopper, H Liddle, J Lindsay, O Milburn, M Nicholls, L Pounder, P Stradling, O Temple and T Henderson (substitute for R Bell)

Co-opted Members:

Mrs B Carr and Mrs R Hassoon

Also Present:

Councillors L Hovvels and O Johnson

At the commencement of the meeting, Councillor Forster reminded members that this was the first meeting of the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee since the death of the former Chair of the Committee Councillor Robin Todd. The Committee observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Armstrong, P Brookes, P Crathorne, E Huntington, P Lawton, A Savory and W Stelling

2 Substitute Members

Councillor T Henderson for Councillor R Bell.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2015, the Joint meeting with Children and Young Peoples' Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 21 April 2015 and the special meeting held on 11 May 2015 were submitted for approval.

Councillor J Chaplow referred to the list of members present at the Committee's meeting held on 2 March 2015 and indicated that her name had been omitted from the list and requested that this be amended. With this amendment, the minutes of these meetings were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

4 Declarations of Interest, if any

There were no declarations of interest.

5 Any Items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties

There were no items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties.

The Principal Scrutiny Officer advised that Mr P Taylor, Healthwatch County Durham had resigned as a co-opted member. He assured the Committee that we still had links with Healthwatch and arrangements to seek a replacement were underway.

6 Media Issues

The Principal Scrutiny Officer provided the Committee with details of the following items which had appeared in the press:-

- Rumours that Darlington Hospital's A&E department is to close are quashed – Darlington & Stockton Times – 23 June 2015
Mr Edmund Lovell would be presenting the Trust's clinical strategy that would highlight the investments being made for both Darlington and Durham hospitals.
- Hospital in superbug treatment trial – Northern Echo – 19 May 2015
University Hospital Durham have introduced an antibiotic to combat superbugs.
- Proposed public health cuts could impact on North East children and crime – Journal – 22 June 2015
Raising concerns about cuts impacting on local children.
- Positive inspection for mental health trust – Northern Echo – 25 May 2015
A care Quality Commission Inspection report had classified Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust as good and the Committee was advised that a detailed report would be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.

7 Care Quality Commission

The Committee received a report of the Assistant Chief Executive that gave background information on the Care Quality Commission (for copy see file of Minutes).

Imogen Hall, Inspection Manager and Suzanne McLeod, Inspector, Care Quality Commission were in attendance. The Inspection Manager gave a detailed presentation about scrutiny and regulation working together, that included information on:-

- CQC strategy 2013-16
- CQC purpose and role
- Raising standards; putting people first 2013-16
- Chief Inspectors and their teams
- Services regulated
- New approach to inspecting services
- Ratings and reports
- What CQC would continue to do
- New regulations and responsibilities
- CSC and Centre for Public Scrutiny
- Main contacts

- New guide for councillors and scrutiny committees
- Top tips for scrutiny committees
- How CQC would feed into scrutiny meetings

The Chairman thanked the Inspection Manager for her presentation.

The Inspection Manager explained that they do carry out checks on their own work and were scrutinised by their board on functions and outcomes of each report, following a question from Councillor M Nicholls.

Councillor O Johnson asked what maximum time was allowed between inspections, and was advised that the new methods of working began in April 2015 so they were still in the process of completion of the first round of inspections for each trust following the organisational review of the Care Quality Commission. The Inspection Manager went on to explain that if a trust or body had not met standards an action plan would be produced and they would make a return visit when required.

Referring to the new enforcement powers following a question from Councillor Johnson, the Inspection Manager advised that they could apply fixed penalties and could act more quickly than previously. She added that mostly the enforcement powers applied to the management of registration.

Councillor O Temple welcomed the involvement of the CQC and said that this was a positive sign for the Committee.

Councillor P Stradling said that the report and presentation were very concise and informative and emphasised the importance for the Council to have this relationship. He asked how scrutiny could hold the commission to account, for example, if an inspection was held and CQC approved and the Council did not agree to this. The Inspection Manager explained that all information about a planned inspection would be raised beforehand and received in advance and the CQC would respond to any concerns raised.

The Principal Scrutiny Officer gave assurance that evidence portfolios are submitted in respect of inspections to the CQC which set out key issues identified by the Committee in respect of the NHS Foundation Trust/organisation being inspected. He added that the Council received notification of planned inspections via the Corporate Director of Children and Adults Services and this is then communicated to the Chair of this Committee. He referenced the recent inspections of County Durham and Darlington NHS FT and Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust and indicated that relevant issues such as the Breast Clinic at Bishop Auckland, the Ambulance Service Review with Durham, Dales, Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group and the Review of mental health services for older people in South Durham and Darlington had been submitted to the CQC.

In response to a question from Councillor J Chaplow about how much notice is given for an inspection, the Inspection Manager said that 20 weeks are given for a hospital inspection. The Inspector advised that unannounced inspections do take place in adult social care and primary care services, and will look at historical data. This would pick up on staffing levels and rotas for a few months before the inspection takes place. She

advised that the CQC do want services to improve and follow up inspections do take place to encourage services to be sustained.

The Chairman asked if the public were included in the assessments carried out and was advised that they do include members of the public who have had experience of receiving extensive contact with health care and have a good understanding.

Mrs R Hassoon referred to the TEWV inspection report whereby they scored highly for 52 of the 60 areas. She asked how the 8 areas that required improvement would be monitored and was advised that the CQC have continued engagement with the trust and the action plan would continue to be monitored.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their comments and welcomed the opportunity to be part of a strengthening partnership.

Resolved:

That the information contained within the report and presentation be noted.

8 County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust Clinical Strategy Update

The Committee received a report of the Assistant Chief Executive that provided an update on developments in respect of County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust's emerging Clinical Strategy (for copy see file of Minutes).

Mr E Lovell, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust informed Members about a piece of work being carried out by the trust called 'Quality First' – one of seven key projects being taken forward this year. Significant investments are planned with a new emergency department of the University Hospital North Durham and the integration of emergency care at Darlington Memorial Hospital. Theatres would be upgraded at Bishop Auckland Hospital and mobile working in the community would be supported.

He went to explain that the service had been under immense pressure and for the first time the trust would have a deficit of £17m by the year end.

The Chairman thanked Mr Lovell for his report and recognised the importance of this consultation.

Councillor Stradling agreed that it would essential to have full consultation and early notification.

Referring to the shortfall of finances, Councillor Johnson asked if the trust had enough reserves to cover this and was advised that it was important to spend the reserves wisely as they could only be spent once. He emphasised the need to invest as the buildings at Durham and Bishop Auckland needed upgrading and the hospital at Darlington was over 40 years old. He advised that the trust would make transformative investments.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained within the report be noted.

9 Health and Wellbeing Board Peer Review Findings

The Committee received a report of the Corporate Director for Children and Adults Services that gave an update on the Local Government Association's Health and Wellbeing Peer Challenge (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Senior Partnership Officer, CAS reported that feedback had been very positive and the LGA had said County Durham was the best in the region and the leadership had been commended. He went on to say that the close relationship with scrutiny had been highlighted as an example of best practice nationally.

Mrs Hassoon was pleased with the excellent report however, was disappointed that there was little reference to mental health issues. She had attended interviews with members of the Peer Review to explain what was being carried out in County Durham.

Councillor Stradling thanked the Senior Partnership Officer for a very positive report.

Resolved:

That the information contained within the report be noted.

10 Draft Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy

The Committee received a report of the Director of Public Health that informed of the draft proposals for the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2015-20 (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Alcohol Harm Reduction Co-ordinator highlighted the key objectives relating to the Altogether themes and asked for feedback by 12 July 2015.

The Principal Scrutiny Officer advised that the strategy had been received by other Scrutiny Committees and he asked Members to give consideration to the terms of reference and key issues identified within the draft strategy within this Committees remit. He suggested that a response be submitted on behalf of the Committee in relation to relevant health related issues and the associated benefit of alcohol reduction.

Resolved:

That the Draft Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy be noted and the Committee submit its feedback to the Alcohol Harm Reduction Co-ordinator by 12 July 2015.

11 Quarter 4 2014/15 Performance Management Report

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive, presented by the Strategic Manager Performance and Information Management, Children and Adults Services that updated on progress against the Council's corporate basket of performance indicators for the Altogether Healthier theme and reported other significant performance issues for 2014/15 (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Strategic Manager, Performance and Information, highlighted the key achievements and key performance improvements issues and gave a detailed analysis of the figures within the report.

In response to a question from Councillor Stradling about the increase in the number of winter deaths, the Strategic Manager, Performance and Information advised that these were compared from the summer to the winter months and the increase covered the cold winters from 2010-2013.

Referring to people supported by Durham County Council and the increase of people being admitted on a permanent basis from residential and nursing care, Councillor Temple queried what proportion of people in the County are using the County's support. The Strategic Manager, Performance and Information advised that there were a range of services available and would depend on the support required. He said that the 836 people being admitted was not a huge number but that there had been a definite increase and reflected that people's needs had changed. Councillor Temple asked if there had been an increase in the number of people qualifying from the Council and was advised that financial support and assessment service numbers were decreasing.

Councillor J Chaplow expressed concern about people not receiving appropriate care if they were not buying it in themselves. The Strategic Manager, Performance and Information said he would provide feedback on the direct payments information following the meeting.

Resolved:

That the report be received.

12 NHS Foundation Trust 2014/15 Quality Accounts

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided details of the responses made on behalf of the Committee in respect of NHS Partners' Draft Quality Accounts for 2014/15 (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Principal Scrutiny Officer advised that the further to the presentations received on 11 May 2015, responses to each partner had been provided within the timeframes with concerns of the Committee expressed and signed by the Chairman.

Resolved:

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

13 Council Plan 2015/2018 - Refresh of Work Programme for Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which presented an updated work programme for the Committee for 2015-16 (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Principal Scrutiny Officer highlighted areas of the work programme and informed the Committee that any statutory consultations that may arise would be factored in.

Resolved:

That the work programme be approved.