

NORTH EAST JOINT HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

21 JUNE 2018

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Hartlepool Borough Council: Councillor Brenda Loynes
 Newcastle City Council: Councillor Taylor
 South Tyneside Council: Councillor Brady

Also Present: County Councillor L J Rickerby as substitute for County Councillor
 Watson (Northumberland County Council)
 County Councillor A Patterson as substitute for County Councillor
 J Robinson (Durham County Council)
 Councillor Povey as substitute for Councillor Grainge
 (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council).

Felicity White, County Durham and Darlington NHS Trust
 Paul Davey, County Durham and Darlington NHS Trust
 Sue Jacques, County Durham and Darlington NHS Trust
 Paul Dunlop, City Hospital Sunderland
 Sean Fenwick, City Hospital Sunderland
 Lorraine Nelson, City Hospital Sunderland
 Rebecca Elliott, City Hospital Sunderland
 Penny Gray, NHS England
 Julie Turner, NHS England
 Clair White, Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield CCG

Officers: Joan Stevens, Scrutiny Manager (HBC)
 Stephen Gwilym (DCC)
 Peter Mennear (SBC)
 Paul Baldesera (STC)
 David Cosgrove, Principal Democratic Services (HBC)

1. Apologies for Absence

Darlington Borough Council: Councillor Newall
 Durham County Council: Councillor Robinson
 Gateshead Borough Council: Councillor Green
 Northumberland County Council: Councillors Alan Sambrook
 Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council: Councillor Kay
 Stockton Borough Council: Councillor Grainge

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

Nominations for the position of Chair and Vice-Chair were sought from the meeting.

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor McCabe, South Tyneside Council be appointed as Chair for the ensuing year. This was agreed by the Joint Committee without dissent.

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Robinson, Durham County Council be appointed as Vice-Chair for the ensuing year. This was agreed by the Joint Committee without dissent.

In the absence of both Councillor McCabe and Robinson, a Chair for this meeting was sought from the members present. It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Loynes be appointed as Chair for this meeting.

Councillor Loynes in the Chair.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 15 February, 2018

The Statutory Scrutiny Officer (HBC) highlighted an amendment to the minutes in that at Minute No. 59 'Specialist Services Update – Neonatal Intensive Care', Sunderland provide the NICU for babies born *over* 26 weeks gestation for the whole region. This amendment to be reflected in the recommendations.

With the above amendment, the minutes were confirmed.

5. Terms of Reference for the North East Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

The terms of reference for the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee were presented to the Committee.

RESOLVED

That the terms of reference be approved.

6. Work Plan for the 2018/19 Municipal Year

The proposed work plan for the Joint Committee for the forthcoming year was presented to Members. It was suggested that any proposals /

amendments from members be forwarded to South Tyneside Council.

RESOLVED

That the work plan be approved.

7. Durham County Council - Adults Wellbeing And Health Overview And Scrutiny Committee - Member Feedback / Recommendations On NHS England's Proposed Review Of Specialised Vascular Services Across The North East – *Durham County Council Representative*

The North East Joint Health Scrutiny Committee on the 15 February 2018 received an update from the North East and North Cumbria Specialist Commissioning Unit outlining progress in relation to the North East Vascular Service Review, following implementation of the recommendations from the Vascular Society of Great Britain and Ireland in 2016.

The Committee agreed that 'discussions would be noted and the proposals reconsidered after consideration by Durham County Council's health scrutiny committee, and provision of the consultation responses and business case to this Committee' (minute number 60 refers).

At a meeting of the Durham County Council's Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Friday 1 June 2018, consideration was given to a report and presentation regarding proposals by NHS England to reconfigure specialised and some non-specialised vascular services in North East England.

Representatives of NHS England's specialised commissioning team, County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust, City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust, North East Commissioning support and both of the County Durham Clinical Commissioning Groups attended to speak about the proposals including the rationale for change, the independent evaluation of options undertaken by the Vascular Society of Great Britain and the recommended option of the third centre providing specialised vascular services at Sunderland Royal Hospital rather than at University Hospital North Durham.

The representatives from Durham County Council stated that their members had great concerns as to the move of services from Durham to Sunderland particularly on the increased distances that a significant proportion of Durham's residents would be required to travel for treatment. It was these concerns that had driven the committee's discussions and the following recommendations had been put forward from Durham for consideration by this Joint Committee: -

- 1) The clinical case for the reduction from 4 to 3 specialised vascular services centres in the North East is accepted by Durham County

Council's Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee;

- 2) The rationale for the selection of Sunderland Royal Hospital as the third regional specialised vascular services centre is disputed from a geographical perspective as this would leave almost half of County Durham more than an hour's travel away from specialised vascular services;
- 3) The County Council's Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee believes that the proposals constitute a substantial development and significant variation in health services and that statutory consultation is required under Section 244 of the NHS Act 2006, particularly in respect of the decision of the location of the third regional centre for specialised vascular services between University Hospital North Durham and Sunderland Royal Hospital; and
- 4) The proposed communication and engagement activity in respect of the proposed review needs to be widened to ensure that the whole population of County Durham have the opportunity to provide their views on the proposals given the significant impact upon Durham of the preferred option.

The Durham representatives stated that they were, therefore, seeking the support of the joint committee, specifically in relation to recommendation 3 that this was a significant variation in health service provision which required statutory consultation.

There were comments expressed by other local authority representatives that while acknowledging the situation for Durham, for most other local authority areas the proposals made no change to service delivery for their residents.

A letter was tabled at the meeting that had been received from Professor Stansby at the Freeman Hospital, Newcastle which made reference to the issue of delivering the Vascular Services at Newcastle and the recruitment of appropriate specialists. Members questioned how this issue would affect the delivery of the proposed changes in vascular services for people in the northern part of the region. The health representatives present commented that there would be no direct impact on services to residents but there were some issues in recruiting. The health representatives indicated that they understood the comments being made and indicated that the geography of the area had been considered. The position of the Board was, however, to support the three centre model based on Newcastle, Sunderland and Middlesbrough.

The representative from Northumberland County Council considered that it would be difficult to give any support for the recommendations until the impact on Northumberland residents had been explored by their scrutiny

committee. It was acknowledged, however, that Northumberland residents would still receive their services through Newcastle as at present.

The Durham representatives remained of the view that they considered this a substantial variation of service with a significant impact on a large proportion of Durham residents. It was suggested that the way forward may be for Durham to pursue the matter independently as Northumberland had indicated they intended to do.

The NHS England representatives stated that they had asked the Trusts to undertake a rapid self assessment on the changes. NHS England were conscious of the distances some patients may be required to travel and indicated that they would welcome the opportunity to go back to Durham's scrutiny committee and report back on those findings.

The Trust representatives indicated that they had examined the services in detail before the proposals for the realignment were determined. One of the issues they considered were not being fully understood was not that services couldn't be provided at Durham but it was an issue of collocated services such as renal services. Renal patients were already travelling to Sunderland for those services. Vascular services ideally required collocated renal services.

The travel issues were well understood but they would not affect all of the 600 patients that would be affected by the change in location from Durham to Sunderland. With reference to the letter tabled in the meeting, it was acknowledged that Vascular specialists were proving difficult to appoint; the situation was similar with specialist radiologists. If services were not collocated it would prove even harder to appoint such specialist staff.

Other representatives considered the Durham recommendations and indicated that the nub of the issue was whether each area considered the changes to be substantial. This was simply not the case for the majority of members of the Joint Committee. The Joint Committee's protocol had to be followed and on this issue a significant variation in health services requiring statutory consultation under Section 244 of the NHS Act 2006 could not be supported for the region. The matter could, however, be argued from Durham's perspective as being such and it would, therefore, be appropriate to allow Durham (and potentially Northumberland) to pursue the matter.

In terms of the individual recommendations submitted by Durham, there was unanimity on recommendation 1 but not on the remaining three.

RESOLVED

1. The Joint Committee accepted the clinical case for the reduction from 4 to 3 specialised vascular services centres in the North East.
2. The Joint Committee recognised the variation in impact, in terms of the detail of the proposals across each North East local authority area, and agreed that it would not be possible for the Joint Committee to

submit a co-ordinated response to NHS England.

3. The Joint Committee, therefore, referred the formulation, and submission, of a response to NHS England to each Local Authority, where appropriate.

8. Specialist Services Update (Neonatal Intensive Care) - Update Letter from the Chair

It was reported that the initial proposals for the Neonatal Intensive Care had been discussed in detail by the North East Joint Health Scrutiny Committee on the 17th December 2015. Following a number of progress reports, a further presentation was considered by the Committee on the 15 February 2018 (minute number 49 refers).

The Joint Committee agreed that 'subject to support from Stockton Borough Council, following their individual consideration on the proposals, the Committee had no objection to the proposals for changes to the provision of neo-natal services, as detailed in the presentation to members.

Following the meeting of the 15th February 2018, the Chair of the North East Health Scrutiny Committee received confirmation from Stockton Borough Council that the matter had been considered, on the 13th March 2018, by its Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee. Stockton's Select Committee had agreed that they had been provided with sufficient assurance in relation to the proposals and had agreed that no further action required by than at that time. In addition to this, the Chairman had received confirmation from the North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust that they agree that the proposals were the right thing to do in terms of the provision of services for this group of babies from the University Hospital of North Tees. Over and above these proposals, the Trust remained committed to the provision of a vibrant Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU) / model, ensuring the sustainability of remaining services from the University Hospital of North Tees as they go forward.

On the basis of the above, and in accordance with decision of the 15th February 2018, the Chairman of the North East Joint Health Scrutiny Committee confirmed, in writing to NHS England, that the Committee has no objection to the proposals for changes to the provision of neo-natal services. A copy of the former Chair's letter was submitted for Members information.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

9. Chairman's urgent items

None.

10. Any Other Business

The representative from Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council indicated that the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee had recently met to consider its workload for the coming year. The officer indicated that he would share the work programme with other authorities to ensure there was no duplication of workload. Other officers welcomed the suggestion and South Tyneside agreed to receive and share any work programmes across the region to the same end.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

To be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 10.45 am.

CHAIR