

Adult Services & Health Select Committee

A meeting of Adult Services & Health Select Committee was held on Monday, 23rd July, 2007.

Present: Cllr Mrs Ann Cains (Chairman), Cllr Mrs Lynne Apedaile, Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Mrs Eileen Craggs, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Mohammed Javed

Officers: Ruth Hill (CESC); Graham Birtle, Nigel Hart (LD).

Also in attendance: Dr Toks Sangowawa (Director of Public Health); Dr Peter Kelly (Director of Health Improvement); Ms Julie Fraser (North Tees Public Health).

Apologies: were submitted on behalf of Cllrs Cockerill and Mrs Nesbitt.

1 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

2 **Minutes of the meeting held on 11th June 2007**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th June 2007 were agreed as a correct record.

3 **Matters Arising**

Pathways to Health Care

Further to the proposal by North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust to plan for a new hospital, primary and community services and facilities for the people of Teesside, it was noted that it would be necessary in the future to invite Carole Langrick (North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Trust) to clarify the funding arrangements for such new facilities.

4 **Review of Alcohol Services**

Consideration was given to a draft scope and project plan for the Select Committee's review of alcohol services.

To assist consideration, Members were provided with the following background information regarding the issue:-

-Key points arising from the alcohol profile of the Borough; namely the amount of binge drinking in comparison to national average, statistics regarding hospital treatment for alcohol related conditions and the number of deaths from alcohol related causes;

-Details of a directory of alcohol services currently provided to both adults and young people within the Borough;

-Identified gaps in service provision.

Dr Toks Sangowawa outlined the background of research which had led to further investment in providing funding for working within communities, offering services suited to young people's specific needs for treatment regarding binge drinking; and this had led to some improvements regarding reducing the long waiting lists for this support. However, there was a consequent need to improve advertising of the service and for the current short term funding streams available in this area to become more mainstream under the Health Improvement Partnership initiative and integrated so as to be able to commission appropriate services for both adults and young people.

With regard to gaps in service provision, it was noted that short term funding of initiatives such as the Primary Alcohol and Drugs Services (PADS) provided within Accident and Emergency Department of the University Hospital of North Tees would be affected by time limited funding up until March 2008. It was also noted that unlike drug rehabilitation support, there was no clear referral system to inform people where to seek support from and no detoxification bed support

available. Dr Kelly advised that alcohol related problems often also had connections with drug dependency issues; as well as anti social behaviour and mental health concerns. The Select Committees review would assist to raise the profile of this issue which had become more prominent in the last 3 years; and in turn could often lead to securing more funding resources. In this regard, it was noted that there was no data in place, either locally or nationally, to indicate the extent to which alcohol misuse had become a problem and that it would be beneficial for such a study to be carried out and the consequent need/demand for alcohol services to be identified. Such research needs could be identified with the National Medical Council.

It was suggested that the scope of the Select Committee's brief focus initially on the gaps in service identified; with a view to addressing these and informing the public of what levels of support are available. Any future investment plans identified would need to be fed into the financial plans for 2008/2009. It was also suggested that the scope be amended to also look at the development of local services; as well as focusing on policy and strategy implications.

Concluded that the Draft Scope and Project Plan be approved, as amended.

5 Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

The Chair advised on items considered by the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee earlier that day; which included presentations from NHS Trust applications to gain Foundation Trust status, as well as a report on the future development of the North East Ambulance Service. It was noted that issues surrounding potential constitutional and membership arrangements; including the eligibility of scrutiny members serving on Foundation Trusts, would continue to be investigated.

Concluded that the report be noted.

6 Work programme

Concluded that the work programme be noted.