

Health Select Committee

A meeting of the Health Select Committee was held on Monday 10th April 2006.

Present: Councillor Mrs Womphrey (Chairman), Councillors Dixon, Harrington, Noble, Mrs Robinson, and Roberts.

Officers: G Birtle, Miss F Shayler (LD); Ms J Atkinson, Ms C Pearson (North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust); Ms L Hegarty, Ms M Clark (North Tees Primary Care Trust).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Apedaile, Coombs, Frankland, Lupton, Mrs Nesbitt, Sherris and Teasdale.

28 Healthcare Commission Core Standards Declaration

The Deputy Director of Clinical Governance and the Head of Patient and Public Involvement, North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust were invited to the meeting to update members on their final declaration of the Healthcare Commission Core Standards. They advised members that other than for the exception of Core Standards C5a – *'Healthcare organisations ensure that they confirm to NICE technology appraisals and where it is available, take into account nationally agreed guidance when planning and delivering treatment and care'*; and C11b – *'Healthcare organisations ensure that staff concerned with all aspects of the provision of healthcare participate in mandatory programmes'*, there had been no significant lapses in meeting the core standards during the period 1st April 2005 and 31st March 2006.

An action plan for the two standards had been produced and was detailed to Members. It was stated that as a health organisation they were required to comply with far more mandatory training over the past five years than ever before, with training required to be undertaken on an annual basis. A full risk assessment of staff had been undertaken and different methods of training had been introduced such as training programmes being available online, training was being cascaded throughout the organisation.

Discussion was held on the different guidelines between NICE (National Institute for Centre of Excellence) and SIGN (Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network) and areas where the Health Authority were not compliant in areas such as CT scans, Diabetes and Epilepsy due to their differing professional opinion on the best care to offer to patients. The PCT as the commissioning body have taken into account that some of the NICE guidelines cannot be followed and have contacted NICE to discuss these issues.

Members discussed issues from the Darzi report particularly in relation to maternity and breast cancer services.

It was requested that comments on the North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust Core Standards Assessment be submitted by 24th April to the Deputy Director of Clinical Governance.

The Director of Clinical Governance and the Head of Clinical Governance, North Tees Primary Care Trust were invited to the meeting to provide details on their proposed Declaration of compliance against the core standards for 2005/6. The PCT intended to declare that they complied with all but 3 of the Standards, C8b *'Healthcare organisation support their staff through organisational and personal development programmes which recognise the contribution and value of staff, and address, where appropriate, under-representation of minority groups'*; C10a *'Healthcare organisations undertake all appropriate employment checks and ensure that all employed or contracted professionally qualified staff are registered with the appropriate bodies'*; and C11b (detailed above). The PCT had addressed the non compliance throughout the year and were now compliant with those Standards by identifying gaps and introducing new procedures.

The PCT invited comments by Thursday 20th April 2006 to the Head of Clinical Governance.

A joint meeting of the Authorities was to be held on Wednesday 12th April to make a decision on the Darzi report, this meeting was open to the public.

Concluded that Members comments be drafted and circulated to Members prior to being formally submitted to the North Tees and Hartlepool Health Authority by 24th April and to the PCT by 20th April, 2006.