

Adult Services & Health Select Committee

A meeting of Adult Services & Health Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 28th November, 2007.

Present: Cllr Mrs Ann Cains (Chairman), Cllr Hilary Aggio (vice Cllr Apedaile), Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Aidan Cockerill, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Mohammed Javed.

Officers: R Hill, P Seller (CESC); G Birtle, F Shayler (LD).

Also in attendance: Elizabeth Shassere (North Tees PCT); Jill Harrison (Assistant Director of Commissioning - Hartlepool); Kamini Shah (Consultant in Dental Public Health, County Durham & Tees Valley Public Health Network); Colin Cessford, Mark Cotton, Graham Robinson (North East Ambulance Service). Cllr Robert Gibson, Cllr Suzanne Fletcher. For the North East Ambulance Service Presentation (From 5.30pm) Cllr Richard Cains, Cllr David Coleman, Cllr John Fletcher, Cllr David Harrington, Cllr Alan Lewis, Cllr Kenneth Lupton, Cllr Ann McCoy, Cllr Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Sylvia Walmsley.

Apologies: were submitted on behalf of Cllr Lynne Apedaile, Cllr Liz Nesbitt.

ASH 46/07 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Javed declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 6 North East Ambulance Service further to being a Member of the Tees Valley Working Group.

Councillor Aggio declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 6 North East Ambulance Service further to being a Member of the Tees Valley Working Group.

Councillor Gardner declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 6 North East Ambulance Service further to being a Member of the Tees Valley Working Group.

ASH 47/07 **Chairman's Update**

Members were informed that they would be receiving a patients survey from the PCT via the Scrutiny Officer.

CONCLUDED that the update be noted.

ASH 48/07 **Review of NHS Dentistry - Monitoring Report**

Members were provided with the monitoring report following the Review of Dentistry.

Members were pleased with the progress in delivering a fluoride varnish programme to targeted Primary Schools. A bid was being put together for LDP funding which would hopefully enable further schools to be included within the programme.

Stockton Borough Council and the North Tees PCT had written to the North East Strategic Health Authority (SHA) to request that consultation on water fluoridisation take place. The response from the SHA was that they were awaiting the outcome of the consultation process in other areas before progressing in the North East. The Committee requested that a further letter

be sent requesting information on the timescale for the consultation process.

Discussion was held on patient waiting lists and which Dental Practices were taking on NHS patients. The PALS and PCT website contained upto date information with regard to which Dental Practices were taking on NHS patients. Jill Harrison would provide information to be distributed to Members by the Scrutiny Officer.

The Committee discussed the target that had slipped with regard to the provision of an accessibility map to identify available bus transport to dental practices. It was requested that the Scrutiny Officer contact Mike Robinson/John Kavanagh to receive upto date information on bus services to identify any gaps.

CONCLUDED that the Monitoring report and comments be noted and a further progress report be submitted in approximately 6 months time.

**ASH
49/07** **Review of Alcohol Services**

Members considered the amended recommendations for the review of Alcohol Services. Discussion was held with Elizabeth Shassere (North Tees PCT) and Ruth Hill (Head of Adult Strategy, CESC) to finalise these recommendations.

The report would be considered by a tripartite meeting prior to being submitted to Executive Scrutiny Committee and then Cabinet for final endorsement.

CONCLUDED that the final report be considered at the tripartite meeting prior to submission to Executive Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.

**ASH
50/07** **North East Ambulance Service – Contact Centre Consultation**

Members were provided with a copy of the consultation document from the North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) on the proposals for Ambulance Contact Centres in the North East of England. Mark Cotton, Head of Communications provided a presentation to Members on the proposals.

Background information was provided detailing the reasons for the required changes to the current structure. Five Options had been provided with the NEAS preferred option being 'the establishment of two independent contact centres evenly spreading the functional capability of the contact centre across two locations'. The contact centre at Bernicia House, Newcastle would remain and 14 potential locations were evaluated for the NEAS' second contact centre. The preferred location for the second site was at Hebburn, South Tyneside.

Full details on the preferred choice was provided within the consultation document. Comments on the proposals were being received between Friday 12 October 2007 and Friday 11 January 2008. Five Public meetings were also being held within this time.

Colin Cessford, Director of Clinical Standards and Strategy, and Graham Robinson, Control Manager were also in attendance to answer Members questions.

Discussion was held on the current control centre at Ladgate Lane and the recent offer that had been made to extend the contract to use this site for a further 5 years. It was stated that this matter was being considered and that a meeting was being held in the next two weeks to discuss the proposals further.

Members discussed recruitment and retention of staff and the loss of local knowledge for the Tees Valley area if the control centres were based in Newcastle and Hebburn.

Members agreed to consider their response to the consultation at the Full Council meeting following this meeting today.

CONCLUDED that the response to the consultation exercise be agreed at the Council meeting on 28th November 2007.