

Adult Services & Health Select Committee (ceased to operate 02/04/2008)

A meeting of Adult Services & Health Select Committee (ceased to operate 02/04/2008) was held on Monday, 10th March, 2008.

Present: Cllr Mrs Ann Cains (Chairman), Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Mrs Eileen Craggs, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Mrs Liz Nesbitt

Officers: Nigel Hart, Fiona Shayler (LD); Peter Smith (CESC).

Also in attendance: Carole Pearson, Sandra Hill (North Tees and Hartlepool PCT); Jan Atkinson (Head of Patient and Public Involvement, North Tees General Hospital).

Apologies: were submitted on behalf of Cllrs Mrs Apedaile, Cockerill, Gardner; Karen Gater (North Tees and Hartlepool PCT); Ann Baxter.

ASH 81/07

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mrs Nesbitt declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda No. 4 further to a possible application under the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) regulations.

ASH 82/07

Draft Minutes - 14th and 18th February, 2008

The Draft minutes of 14th and 18th February 2008 were agreed as a correct record.

ASH 83/07

Draft Minutes - 25th February, 2008

The Draft Minutes of 25th February 2008 were amended and agreed by the committee.

ASH 84/07

Annual Health Check

Members had been provided with the self declarations submitted by both the North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust (NTH NHST) and the North Tees Primary Care Trust (NTPCT); with a view to the Committee submitting its views on the standards that they had received evidence for during the year.

The North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust declared themselves to be fully compliant with all of the core standards. In making this declaration, it was reported that the Trust's target in respect of core standard C4a, which sought to ensure systems were kept to minimise the risk of MRSA, had been set at 12 instances of reported cases. However, the actual number of cases recorded had been 24, but this was a reduction of 12 from the previous year figure of 36. In addition, the Department of Health had since visited the Trust and had confirmed that they were satisfied with the progress and actions taken in this regard in the last three months. Furthermore, the Healthcare Commission had also visited in June 2007 and had awarded the Trust with compliance against the code.

Discussion was held around the difficulties the public had in both accessing public transport from various parts of the Borough to visit hospitals; as well as

the high cost of parking in hospital grounds. It was suggested that these observations be raised against core standard C18 regarding the importance of equity of access arrangements for all of the population to the services provided. The Committee reiterated the concerns expressed by Council regarding the pay award increases awarded to both the Chair and Board Members of the North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust.

The North Tees Primary Care Trust stated that they had undertaken a full review of the core standards and were also declaring full compliance.

Members questioned the absence from core standard C23 of any focus on encouraging sensible drinking of alcohol; the importance of which had been emphasised by this Committee within its recent scrutiny review. The NTPCT representative advised that an update of evidence in this regard would be provided to the Committee. Reference was also made to the different appointment systems operated between GP Practices, which in some cases could lead to difficulties in members of the public obtaining appointments in reasonable time. It was noted that the PCT had no influence over the systems adopted by the different fund holders, however the Committee's concerns in this regard could be submitted. Similarly, concern was expressed regarding the use of high premium 0844 numbers when contacting GP Practices for appointments.

The deadline for the Committee to submit its comments to both organisations, was noted. Members expressed their concern regarding the short timescale for response and hoped that in future comment on each Trust could be considered at separate meetings of the Committee. It was noted that the format of the documentation made the information provided difficult to digest.

CONCLUDED that the Select Committee's views outlined above regarding the standards that they have received evidence for be noted and the Scrutiny Officer be authorised to summarise in writing and submit to both the NTH NHST and the NTPCT by the required deadline following consultation on the content with members of the Select Committee.

**ASH
85/07**

Local Involvement Networks (LINKs)

Members were provided with an information and progress update report regarding the arrangements for implementing the new statutory Local Involvement Networks programme. The Patient and Public Involvement in Health (PPI) Forums were due to end from 31st March 2008. The report provided an update on actions taken since the last report to the Committee on 18th December 2007. It should be noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had the responsibility for scrutinising how the contracting process was undertaken and to ensure that best value was achieved.

Decisions about the LINK programme were taken at a "Getting Ready for LINKs Steering Group" (GRfLSG), which met on a monthly basis and had a wide-ranging membership from statutory and voluntary organisations including PPIF members. The GRfLSG took the decision to use the transition period to develop an interim LINK and undertake the procurement of the "host" organisation in a way that allows for learning from other LA's. Progress in these areas was on target and support and advice had been received from the Office of Public Scrutiny (OPS) and the Care Services Improvement Partnership

(CSIP).

CONCLUDED that Members note the progress with the development of a local LINK in Stockton-on-Tees and further update reports be provided to the Committee as appropriate.

**ASH
86/07** **Work Programme**

It was noted that topics for future reviews were currently being invited. This Committee had earlier earmarked a review of Audiology to take place this year; which had not been possible to take place. It was therefore proposed that this topic be submitted for consideration for review during 2008/09.

CONCLUDED that the Work Programme be noted.

**ASH
87/07** **Chairman's Update**

Members were provided with an update on Momentum and the Joint Scrutiny Committee that was to be established to respond to the NHS plans for a new hospital North of the River. The composition of the Committee had yet to be determined, but would have representations from Stockton on Tees, Hartlepool, Durham and North Yorkshire Councils.