

Housing and Community Select Committee

Update to Executive Scrutiny Committee – 26 February 2013

Update on Progress (including issues/problems/successes)

Review of Tobacco Control

Members recently received information in relation to the Review of Tobacco Control from the Chief Executive of North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust and from officers of Stockton Borough Council.

The hospital trust had signed the smoking cessation pledge, which included a commitment to encourage staff to stop smoking and allowed staff to attend smoking cessation services during work time with no loss of pay. Members felt this principle should extend to employees of Stockton Borough Council in conjunction with the NHS.

Information was actively advertised in and around hospital premises, with telephone numbers and website addresses offering support to those wanting to give up smoking.

Health professionals were trained to give advice and promote stop smoking to patients. In addition a standard letter would be sent to patients, asking them not to smoke in their homes.

Members heard there was a current drive to promote benefits of stopping smoking in pregnancy, however there was evidence which suggested that younger women were less likely to stop.

Discussion took place regarding the smoking shelter located close to the entrance of North Tees Hospital and the possibility of moving it. Members suggested that to lead by example, separate smoking shelters should be provided for staff. It was noted that the effect of the new policies had on uptake of smoking cessation services etc. would be monitored.

Officers from Stockton Borough Council presented the Committee with information relating to the prevention of smoking in Young People.

Smoking awareness was delivered to young people using the 'this is me' toolkit, risk taking behaviour road shows, involvement in No smoking day, stoptober and health events. Members were informed that information from evaluation forms completed after these sessions influenced future delivery.

Discussion took place around how successful the sessions were and whether or not there had been a decline in smoking from those youths who had attended. Officers informed the committee that as the programme was still in its infancy this information was still to be determined.

There was also a targeted youth service and those assigned caseworkers could be as young as 8. This service asked why those that smoked do this and the most common answer was peer pressure and family environment.

Members were informed that for schools and colleges the Risk Taking Behaviour Roadshow was made up of 4 aspects, Drugs and Alcohol, Peer Pressure, Sexual Health and Risk Taking. There was an additional element in development which would be more specific to smoking, however currently smoking was included in the

drugs and alcohol section of the road show.

Members were informed of the future plans to review the content of the RTB Road Show taking into account young peoples opinions. There were also plans to roll the Road Show out to college based settings.

The Committee asked if more could be done to stop parents smoking at school gates, officers explained that smoke free policies were in place in school however consultation with parents was difficult.

Presentation of final report with recommendations for approval to Cabinet on 18 April 2013.