

Adult Services and Health Select Committee

Update to Executive Scrutiny Committee

17 December 2013

Review of Access to GP, Urgent and Emergency Care

The review will examine the range of methods of accessing local GP services and the performance of local practices. The review will consider the close links between GP access and pressures on the local urgent and emergency care services, and related initiatives such as NHS111 and the introduction of the GP Walk-in Centre.

The meeting of 26 November was attended by the Cleveland Local Medical Committee, Tees Public Health Pharmaceutical Team and the Tees Pharmaceutical Committee. GP recruitment, demand and available resources were discussed, and the potential for a greater range of services to be delivered through community pharmacy was highlighted. Future meetings will focus on local A and E services including ambulance response.

Other Work / Quality of Care

Healthwatch Stockton – on 26 November, Members were updated on progress of Healthwatch following its introduction in April 2013, and made a number of suggestions as to how Healthwatch could improve its reach in communities.

Six Monthly Adult Care Performance - it was noted that the ratings for the Care Homes Quality Standards Framework would be subject to further refinement following comments from the Committee about the rating system. Suggestions were also made in relation to improving the local Quality of Assessment Survey to better understand respondent views.

Sub-regional and Regional Committees

The Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee is chaired by Stockton Council during 2013-14. On 28 October, the Committee considered the consultation to change children's and maternity services at the Friarage Hospital in Northallerton, and the impact on hospitals in the Tees Valley. A response was prepared highlighting the need to consider capacity at both Darlington and James Cook hospitals, the arrangements for effective and sustainable emergency transport, arrangements for more complex patients who may in future travel long distances to James Cook (and to avoid sending them home if arriving 'too early' in their labour), and the triage of very sick children.

The meeting on 9 December will review winter planning and management arrangements across the Tees Valley, and an update on the Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust's rehabilitation services across the area, following changes at Lustrum Vale in Stockton, and proposed changes in Hartlepool.

The Regional Health Scrutiny Committee met on 4 November and was updated by NHS England on the new congenital heart surgery review that will include services for adults (the previous Safe and Sustainable review concentrated on children's services) and further consultation is expected next year, the ambulance service's reconfiguration of its A and E vehicles (type and locations), regional progress on NHS111, and the NHS Call for Action (a national debate about the future of the NHS). Following the meeting relevant issues will be picked up as part of the local review on urgent care as outlined above.