

Adult Services and Health Select Committee

Update to Executive Scrutiny Committee

4 February 2014

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.

Members at the meeting of 14 January heard from North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust, South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in relation to the operation of their A and E departments. Issues include recruitment of key staff, the percentage of people attending for relatively minor and/or inappropriate reasons, the impact of sudden spikes in demand on units, alcohol, and availability of patient information from GP practices. Future meetings will include reference to ambulance response and out of hours care.

Other Work / Quality of Care

The meeting of 4 March will consider **North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust's draft Quality Account**. This summarises performance for both hospital and community-based care, and identifies priorities for improvements in quality for the forthcoming year (focussing on clinical effectiveness, patient experience, and patient safety). The Committee makes an annual statement of assurance that is included in the published version of the Account. Comments from all Members in relation to the performance of the Trust are welcome in order to assist the Committee in its work.

Sub-regional and Regional Committees

The Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee is chaired by Stockton Council during 2013-14.

The meeting on 9 December reviewed winter planning and management arrangements across the Tees Valley with South Tees Trust, CCG, Public Health England and NHS England representatives; including the impact of referral to treatment times at South Tees. 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, was considered and the committee's comments were included in the consultation response.

On 20 January, the Director of the Durham, Darlington and Tees Area Team provided the Committee with an update on progress so far. NHS funding for the region, quality and system oversight arrangements, recruitment, and the Call to Action were all discussed.

The meeting on 3 March will consider the Quality Account for Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust – as above, any feedback on this issue would also be welcome. Papers will be available on request.