

Health Select Committee

A meeting of Health Select Committee was held on Monday, 10th November, 2008.

Present: Cllr Mrs Ann Cains (Chairman), Cllr Paul Baker, Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Julia Cherrett, Cllr Aidan Cockerill, Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr Andrew Sherris, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley

Officers: Fiona Shayler, Judith Trainer (LD).

Also in attendance: Kamini Shah and Victoria Cooling (Stockton on Tees Teaching PCT); Anita Murray (Tees PCT).

Apologies: were submitted on behalf of Cllr Mrs Liz Nesbitt.

1 Declarations of Interest

None

2 Draft Minutes - 8th September 2008

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 8th September were agreed as a correct record.

3 Consultation on the Expansion of Dental Services

Members were provided with information on an oral health commissioning strategy that the PCT were developing. The objective of the strategy was to commission dental care and services that would improve oral health and ensure equitable access to health outcome focussed services. It highlighted key issues to take into consideration when setting commissioning and contracting policy in each of the four Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) in Teesside. It set out three strategic aims which were:

1. Improve oral health and reduce inequalities
2. Improve access to NHS Dentistry
3. Commission high quality, health outcome based care

The PCT were also procuring additional services for North Stockton, Billingham and Fairfield and were procuring a service for drug misuse patients.

As part of the consultation to develop a strategy the PCT had consulted with clinical stakeholders and the LINK to help shape the strategy. There would be a further stage to the consultation once the strategy had been drafted.

Members were provided with an update on the fluoride varnish scheme which was being piloted in 12 Primary Schools that were in the 20% highest mean number of dmft (decayed, missing and filled teeth) areas. This scheme provided a varnish to children's teeth whose parents had consented to being part of the pilot. The varnish would be applied to the child's teeth twice yearly for 5 years at the School. There had been approximately a 60% take up of parents consenting to the scheme. Alongside this scheme a teeth cleaning programme for nursery and reception children. A resource pack for teeth cleaning was also being developed to include within Splat packs that children take home to undertake activities with their parents/carers.

Members held discussion on the recommendation made by this Committee following its review of Dentistry to the Strategic Health Authority (SHA) to consult on putting fluoride in the water. A pilot of this scheme was currently taking place in Southampton and the SHA were awaiting the results prior to considering whether they would consult in this area.

Members were informed that a School of Dental Therapy would be opening in 2010 at Teesside University and it was anticipated that 12 hygienists would be trained each year. It was hoped that this would enable hygienists to be recruited locally.

Discussion was held on the orthodontic service and current waiting lists for treatment. A Practice in Billingham had recently been awarded a contract for a specialist orthodontic service. A service

was also available in Middlesbrough and Hartlepool and an outreach service was available for Redcar and Cleveland. The current target from referral to start of treatment was 18 weeks.

CONCLUDED that:-

1. The information received be noted.
2. Members support the development of an oral health strategy and be included in future consultation.

4 Review of Audiology

Members were provided with the draft scope and project plan for the review of Audiology. Members held discussion on the main issues that they wished to address as part of their review and the information and witnesses that they wished to receive evidence from.

CONCLUDED that the scope and project plan be approved.

5 Work Programme

To review the project plan in respect of the current review

To discuss ideas for future review topics

Members discussed their future work programme for their review of audiology. The next meeting would be held on Monday 15th December 2008.

CONCLUDED that the work programme be noted.

6 Chairman's Update

Members were informed that the Momentum Panel had formally recommended Site A for the new hospital. A planning application had since been submitted.

A letter had been received from the Secretary of State upholding the decision to relocate the North East Ambulance Call Centre. The Chair would be making representations to the Joint Health Committee to invite the Strategic Health Authority to explain how it intended to ensure that the concerns that led to the referral would be taken into account whilst the proposal for a second contact centre was implemented.

CONCLUDED that the update be noted.