

# Health Select Committee

A meeting of Health Select Committee was held on Monday, 22nd June, 2009.

**Present:** Cllr Mrs Ann Cains (Chairman), Cllr Aidan Cockerill, Cllr Kevin Faulks.

**Officers:** Margaret Madden, Ruth Hill, Glyn Roberts (CESC); Peter Mennear, Fiona Shayler (LD); Dawn Welsh (PP); Michelle Graham (R).

**Also in attendance:**

**Apologies:** were submitted on behalf of Cllr Paul Baker, Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Julia Cherrett, Cllr Liz Nesbitt, Cllr Andrew Sherris, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley.

## 1 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Mrs Cains declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 5 - Work Programme further to being a Trustee of the George Hardwick Foundation.

## 2 **Draft Minutes - 18th May 2009**

The draft minutes of 18th May 2009 were agreed as a correct record.

## 3 **Efficiency, Improvement and Transformation Review - Fair Access to Care - to receive additional baseline information (papers to follow)**

Margaret Madden, Complaints Service Manager, was in attendance to provide information to Members on complaints regarding Fair Access to Care (FACS).

Members were informed that data was not specifically recorded under FACS, however data had been provided on the complaints that were most closely related. Members were informed that a new complaints system had been introduced in April following a framework from the Department of Health. It was stated that a number of complaints related to no service being available locally for autistic young adults.

Members were also provided with analysis based on clients who had been assessed during the six months October 2008 to March 2009 or who could be judged as being eligible for a service during that six month period based on the outcome of their last assessment or review before October 2008. The information was broken down into FACS banding and client group.

Members stated that they would need further information on the costings for each of the bands to identify the level of savings that could be made, as some of the information was incomplete and in addition, many clients' bands were not recorded as a matter of course. Officers were asked to undertake further analysis of those clients whose bands were 'not recorded' in order to test whether the majority of these were assessed by Occupational Therapy teams.

Discussion was held on the return and re-use of equipment if clients no longer required it. It was stated that equipment could be labelled with a telephone number for returns to assist in the process. It was felt that the Community Retail Model would need to be considered. Comparisons with other authorities would

also be useful to identify alternative methods. It was felt important to examine the costs surrounding equipment as the cost of individual pieces of equipment could vary substantially.

CONCLUDED that the information provided be noted.

#### **4 Work Programme**

- to review the project plan in respect of the current review
- to discuss ideas for future topics

Members discussed their forthcoming work programme. It was stated that further data, comparisons with appropriate authorities and information on possible efficiencies needed to be received.

Members discussed how regularly clients were assessed, it was stated that this was done on an annual basis at ten month intervals as this information needed to be recorded for performance measures.

Discussion was held on the 'sitting service' and it was stated that data could be being missed from this activity due to the ability to self refer.

It was stated that Sheila Pearson, Principal Solicitor, would be attending the next meeting to provide legal advice to Members.

CONCLUDED that the Work Programme be noted.

#### **5 Northern Burn Care Network - Service Configuration - Update**

On 11 June, an event was held in Wakefield for Health Scrutiny Members from across the Northern region (including Isle of Man, and northern Wales), in order to update them with the proposals for new centres that would provide care for those the most serious and complex burns injuries. These centres had been termed 'supra-regional' and would be in addition to the regional centres that already existed.

Members were provided with a copy of the Executive Summary of the final proposals for 'Supra-Regional' Burn Care Centres. It was proposed that there should be two such centres for adult care (Manchester and Wakefield), and one for paediatric care (Manchester).

Members were informed that a further meeting for Health OSC Chairs would be held in March/April 2010 and updates would also be provided by a regular newsletter.

CONCLUDED that the update be noted.

#### **6 Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee**

Members were provided with a copy of the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee minutes of 23rd March 2009 for information purposes.

CONCLUDED that the minutes be noted.

## **7 Chair's Update**

The Tees Valley Joint Committee would be hosting an event on 20th July to enable all Members to ask questions and seek further information on the North East Ambulance Trust Foundation Trust consultation.

Members were reminded to respond to the Consultation document. It was stated that there was only one Councillor to represent the whole of the region on the Foundation Trust Council of Governors as the proposals currently stood.

Momentum Phase Two would be beginning in the near future.

Members were informed that there would be a delay until next year in establishing a Community Ahythmia Service, and that scrutiny would be consulted on locations following confirmation of the commissioning process.

A copy of the structure of the local PCTs would be distributed to Members due to a re-alignment of Directors.

Members were provided with a monthly update produced by Leisure and Sports Development.

Councillor Faulks stated that he had attended the Health Check Day.

CONCLUDED that the Chair's update be noted.