

Health Select Committee

A meeting of Health Select Committee was held on Monday, 5th July, 2010.

Present: Cllr Mrs Ann Cains (Chairman), Cllr Paul Baker, Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr Julia Cherrett, Cllr Aidan Cockerill, Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr Mohammed Javed.

Officers: Fiona McKie, Peter Mennear (LD).

Also in attendance: James Newton (LINK)

Apologies: were submitted on behalf of Cllr Sherris and Cllr Mrs Walmsley.

1 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Javed declared a personal/non prejudicial interest further to being an employee of the Tees and Wear Valley NHS Trust.

2 **Minutes of Meeting 24th May 2010**

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Councillor Cockerill and Councillor Cherrett reported back on the Regional Health Scrutiny Overview Day held on 28th June. There were a number of speakers from both national and regional level. It was felt that the day had positive outcomes and that Members were looking forward to the joint scrutiny work that would be coming forward.

A report had been received by the Cabinet on 10th June regarding the establishment of the Regional Health Committee and it was agreed that in the event that the Chair was unable to attend a meeting, then the Vice Chair would attend, in the event the Vice Chair would be unable to attend then another member of this committee would be requested to attend.

The Chairman confirmed that the funding proposals for the new hospital would not be forthcoming. Members requested an update on the future of the community health centres that also formed part of the Momentum programme, including the Billingham Integrated Health Centre; it was suggested that this be arranged for the next meeting.

3 **Consultation and Service Configuration Update**

Members were previously advised of the review of children's heart surgery which was being undertaken by the National Specialised Commissioning Group.

The review was being undertaken due to the following concerns:

- not all centres could provide safe 24/7 cover
- surgical expertise was spread too thinly across centres
- risk of occasional practice around some complex procedures
- risk that smaller centres may lead to less favourable outcomes for patients
- smaller centres would experience recruitment difficulties; robust succession planning would be difficult, increasing the risk of unplanned and sudden closures of some centres.

The nearest unit currently providing children's heart surgery was the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle.

It was understood that proposals for change would be published in the autumn and a period of public consultation would take place between October and January 2011. Should an overview and scrutiny committee consider that the proposals represent a substantial change, discussions would need to be held in order to set up the required joint committee.

Our Vision, Our Future

Members were informed that this programme was being led by the North East Strategic Health Authority. It was designed to implement the ten-year strategy (2008-2018) to improve the 'health system' in the north east. It was based on the knowledge that although north east NHS services were ranked amongst the best in the country, the actual health of the population was rated amongst the worst areas.

The work was being led by nine Clinical Innovation Teams covering the following areas: Maternity and Newborn Care, Child Health, Staying Healthy, Planned Care, Long Term Conditions, Learning Disability, Acute Care, Mental Health, and End of Life Care. An update was provided on the End of Life Care programme.

CONCLUDED that the update be noted and that Members receive further progress reports.

4 Progress Updates on Previously Agreed Recommendations

Members were asked to consider the assessments of progress contained within the Progress Updates on the implementation of previously agreed recommendations. There were outstanding recommendations from the reviews of Alcohol and Dentistry.

Members requested an update when the funding was reviewed for the continuation of the pilot for alcohol referrals for arrested individuals.

CONCLUDED that the progress updates be agreed and that a further update on the funding for the alcohol referral pilot be provided at the appropriate time.

5 Health Scrutiny Briefing

Members were provided with a Health Scrutiny briefing by the Scrutiny Officer. It was felt that this would be useful for new Members of the Committee.

Members were provided with the NHS Tees Organisation Structure. Information was provided on commissioning for public health, the operating framework, private providers, joint working etc. Since the new Government had been appointed a number of changes had been made and a White Paper was imminent.

A Members policy update session on Health Inequalities would be provided on 12th July, 2010 in Stockton Library.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted and that a further update be provided once the White Paper had been released.

6 Chair's Update

Members were informed that the LINK would be holding an event on 16th July to celebrate its first year in operation.

A letter had been received by the PCT from Asda regarding the issues that had been reported around waiting times at the Pharmacy at the Thornaby Store. Asda stated that they had introduced new procedures and were looking at the process for dealing with prescriptions.

The commentary from the Committee for the various Quality Accounts had been submitted and we had been thanked for our response. The final document had not been finalised yet.

Members were informed that the Tees, Esk and Wear Valley Foundation Trust's annual meeting would be held on 29th July at 4.00pm, Middlesbrough Football Club.

The Fair Access to Care Services consultation was ongoing, approximately 1,000 responses had been received at present. The consultation period would end on 27th August. It was suggested that the options be considered at a meeting on 18th October.

CONCLUDED that the Chair's update be noted.

7

Work Programme

An additional meeting would be organised for Tuesday 21st September at 3.30pm, in order to consider the results of the FACS consultation, prior to looking at the options for change at the meeting of 18 October.

CONCLUDED that the Work Programme be noted.