

# Health Select Committee

A meeting of Health Select Committee was held on Monday, 18th October, 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, Cllr Andrew Sherris, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley.

**Officers:** Glyn Roberts (CESC); Fiona McKie, Peter Mennear (LD); Dawn Welsh (PP); Michelle Graham (R).

**Also in attendance:** Ruth Hill, Sue Greaves (NHS Stockton-on-Tees); James Newton (LINK).

**Apologies:** None

## 1 **Declarations of Interest**

None

## 2 **Draft Minutes - 21st September 2010**

The minutes of the meeting were agreed by the committee subject to some amendments made by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

Thornaby Asda Pharmacy

An update was requested regarding the measures that had been introduced to improve the service at the Thornaby Asda Pharmacy. The Ward Councillor stated that there had been some improvements but there were still long queues to drop off prescriptions and also long waiting times for repeat prescriptions. It was felt that a point to drop off prescriptions would be useful. Sue Greaves, NHS Stockton-on-Tees, would forward Members comments to the contract team.

## 3 **EIT Review of Fair Access to Care Services - to formulate draft recommendations**

Members were provided with a number of documents in order to assist them in their final decision making following their review of FACS:-

- Summary of issues identified during the review
- Updated Finance / Data Position
- Summary of consultation results
- Updated Legal / Equality Briefing

Members were informed that there was a prevention workshop on 17th November at the Education Centre, Junction Road, Norton, to which all of the Health Committee was invited.

Members discussed in depth the various options. Particularly, if Members decided to raise the eligibility criteria, how this would be done and what alternative measures could be put in place. Members were informed that additional work would need to take place in occupational therapy to ensure consistency in relation to the application of any new criteria. Considerable work would need to take place in order to provide advice and information to people that may be affected and to ensure that appropriate signposting took place.

In relation to the provision of community services that could be provided by external organisations, discussion was held on provision within the third sector and it was stated that discussions were taking place with Catalyst. Other work was also taking place regarding a third sector investment fund.

With regard to targeted community services, Members felt that telecare was a vital service and requested that if additional funds from any savings were available that they be invested into this service.

Members requested that once a final decision had been agreed on the future of the eligibility

criteria policy that all Members be provided with appropriate information in order to deal effectively with any queries from members of the public. It was also requested that statistics be provided on how many people could be affected.

Members discussed the results of the consultation and formulated draft recommendations. The Scrutiny Officer would compile these into the Committee's report and a tripartite meeting would be held on 20th October, 2010.

The final report and recommendations would be presented to Members for final approval at their meeting on 8th November, 2010.

Members wished to formally thank everyone who had responded to the survey and thank the Community Equality Impact Assessment Panel for their input into the review.

CONCLUDED that the final report be presented to Members on 8th November 2010.

#### **4 Update on operation of Tithebarn NHS Walk-in Centre**

Members were provided with an update on the GP-led Health Centre at Tithebarn House. The service commenced in May 2009 and incorporated a walk-in service and a GP service with extended hours. The service was provided by Assura Stockton following a tendering process.

Members were provided with the actual and forecasted activity for the centre. The walk-in activity had been significantly higher than expected. The walk-in activity for Year 2 now had a forecasted outturn of 29,000 which would exceed the original targeted activity by 80%. Officers were undertaking a patient survey in November/December 2010 to gain an understanding for the high demand. Various other forms of consultation were being undertaken to address this issue.

Members were informed that the increase in activity at Tithebarn had had no effect on the numbers entering A&E.

Members discussed a number of possible reasons for patients using the walk-in services such as:

- waiting times for appointments at some surgeries
- difficulties in making appointments due to systems in place
- the threshold for patients seeking medical advice being lowered due to easier access
- evening and weekend availability increasing access for appointments

Members discussed the waiting times for appointments at Tithebarn and were informed that the average length of time that patients waited in September was 9 minutes.

Members requested that a further up date be provided once the consultation had been carried out.

CONCLUDED that the update be noted and that a further update be provided next year following the consultation exercise taking place.

#### **5 Monitoring the implementation of previously agreed recommendations**

##### **- Reviews of Alcohol, Dentistry and Audiology**

Members considered the assessments of progress contained within the Progress Updates on the implementation of previously agreed recommendations. There were outstanding recommendations from the reviews of Audiology, Dentistry and Alcohol.

Members agreed that the progress update on recommendation 2 of the Dentistry Review (consultation on fluoridation) be amended to '2 – On track', and that recommendation 4 of the Audiology Review (review of care pathway for children's screening across Tees) be updated to be '2 – On track'.

It was proposed that a further category of 'on hold' be added to the progress updates

CONCLUDED that the monitoring reports be amended as described and agreed.

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

Members were provided with the Minutes of the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Committee from the meetings of 23 August and 13 September 2010.

The minutes of the meeting of 11 October had not yet been approved. The meeting continued discussions in relation to the capacity in community mental health services, and the newly awarded contract for Out of Hours GP services across Tees. The contract has been awarded to the Northern Doctors Urgent Care consortium.

CONCLUDED that the update be noted.

## **7 Work Programme**

Members were informed that the Executive Scrutiny Committee would be discussing an officer led review of the Adult Services Structure for this Committee to review, as part of its work programme, at its meeting on 19th October 2010.

The next meeting of this Committee would be held on 8th November to consider the final report for FACS and Sue Smith would be attending to discuss the Quality Account for next year.

CONCLUDED that the Work Programme be noted.

## **8 Chair's Update**

Members were shown an article that had appeared in the Evening Gazette on 15th October, 2010 regarding Harmful Incidents at North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust. A copy would be distributed to Members.

CONCLUDED that the Chairs update be noted.