

TEES VALLEY HEALTH SCRUTINY JOINT COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee was held on 8 November 2010.

PRESENT: Representing Darlington Borough Council:
Councillor Mrs Swift

Representing Hartlepool Borough Council:
Councillor G Lilley

Representing Middlesbrough Council:
Councillor Cole

Representing Redcar & Cleveland Council:
Councillors Mrs Wall (Chair) and Mrs Higgins

Representing Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council:
Councillors Mrs Cains and Cockerill (as substitute for Councillor Sherris).

OFFICERS: J Walsh (Hartlepool Borough Council), J Bennington and J Ord (Middlesbrough Council) and P Mennear (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council).

**** APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were submitted on behalf of the Councillors Newall and Mrs Scott (Darlington Borough Council), Councillors S Akers-Belcher and Cook (Hartlepool Borough Council), Councillor Dyden (Middlesbrough Council), Councillor Carling (Redcar & Cleveland Council) and Councillors Sherris and Mrs Walmsley (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council).

**** PRESENT BY INVITATION:** NHS Tees:
Carl Bashford, Assistant Director Mental Health and Learning Disabilities
Sarah Clasper, Communication and Engagement Manager
Deborah Bowden, Tees Sexual Health Lead
Tracy Hickman, Senior Procurement Manager
Beverley Thompson, Strategic Commissioner Mental Health

Assura Medical Ltd:
Janice Kilbride, Medical Director
Tracy Hampson, Regional Manager.

**** DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Name of Member	Type of Interest	Item / Nature of Interest
Councillor Mrs Wall	Personal/Non-Prejudicial	Any matters relating to North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust - related to a number of employees.
Councillor Mrs Wall	Personal/Non-Prejudicial	Agenda Item 5 – Mental Health & Wellbeing in the BME Community – Executive Committee Member of Redcar & Cleveland MIND

**** MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee held on 11 October 2010 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING – OUT OF HOURS CARE SERVICES REDESIGN PROPOSALS – CALL HANDLING – MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Members referred to the discussions during the meeting of the Joint Committee held on 11 October 2010 with particular regard to the call handling arrangements as part of the Out of Hours Service to be provided by Northern Doctors Urgent Care. Given the vital importance of this aspect of such a service it was considered beneficial for the Joint Committee to receive further information in this regard.

Members were advised that the points raised at the previous meeting of the Joint Committee regarding mental health services and the challenges and pressures facing the current management structure in terms of providing an integrated service between social care and health would be the subject of a further report to the next meeting of the Joint Committee.

AGREED as follows: -

1. That the information provided be noted.
2. That a further report be submitted regarding the Out of Hours Care Services with particular regard to the call handling arrangements and the training provided in this regard.

SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES ACROSS TEES

The Scrutiny Support Officer submitted a report the purpose of which was to introduce representation from the local NHS to provide a further update briefing on the development of Sexual Health Services across Tees.

Specific reference was made to briefing papers at Appendix 1 of the report submitted which provided a progress update since November 2009 and outlined the next steps regarding the implementation of the service and plans for ensuring that service users were engaged throughout the implantation of the new service.

The new Integrated Sexual Health Service replaced a number of existing services and therefore TUPE applied for a large number of staff which had resulted in a delay in signing the contract owing to the complexities around the employment model and corresponding transfer process. Members were advised that it was anticipated that the contract would be signed in the next few months.

The new service was based on a hub and spoke model, an integrated GUM and CASH (Contraception and Sexual Health) service based in community settings. A summary of the model was outlined in the report submitted.

Level 3 related to specialist services which would be delivered at each four hubs located at Hartlepool (One Life), Stockton (Lawson Street), Redcar (Redcar Primary Care Hospital) and Middlesbrough (North Ormesby Health Village).

Level 2 related to community services, which would be delivered from a range of venues including the four hubs.

Level 1 provided Neighbourhood Services, which would be delivered from the four hubs, GP practices, health centres, and minor injuries units, community groups, pharmacies and vending machines.

NHS Tees was currently working with Assura Stockton LLP to finalise contract details which would include a range of plans, measures and incentives to ensure delivery of a responsive, safe, effective and client focussed service which met all necessary standards.

The contract (five years) would include a mobilisation plan which detailed the necessary steps requested for the service to commence on an agreed date and a transition plan detailing the actions required to make the change from the current delivery model to the new service model.

It was noted that the contract would include a range of performance and quality measures and also a quality incentive scheme, which promoted quality of the services, by offering payment for demonstrating continuous improvement for a range of quality measures.

The report outlined the communication and engagement activities. It was confirmed that service users, patients, carers, the public and stakeholders would continue to be engaged throughout the development and implementation of integrated sexual health services in Teesside. The Communication and Engagement Team (NHS Tees) was working with Assura Stockton LLP to develop and agree robust communication, engagement and marketing plans.

The representatives from Assura Medical Limited amplified some of the elements of the new Integrated Sexual Health Services which focussed on preventative measures and not just treatment and tackled risk taking behaviours. A similar model of service had been piloted elsewhere in the UK but not to the same degree. Specific reference was made to the service model based on the hub and spoke model and with a range of locations to provide a holistic service.

In response to clarification from Members it was confirmed that funding was in place for the development of such services across Tees and that it was proposed that services from the Hubs would eventually be accessible 8.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

In commenting on ways of accessing hard to reach groups and schools/colleges an indication was given of the work of a number of steering groups such as the Diversity Group and the Young Peoples Group.

In terms of measuring success it was acknowledged that given that the service was very much focused on preventative work and multifaceted it was very complex to demonstrate the impact of such processes and clinical outcomes. The number of referrals and people seen was recognised as a measure in itself.

Members commented on different circumstances and success rates of various strategies across PCT areas and specifically referred to a reduction in under 18 conception rates in respect of Darlington. In overall terms, it was considered beneficial to encourage shared best practice for future consideration by the Joint Committee.

It was suggested that the Joint Committee receive an update report following a period of approximately 12 months.

AGREED as follows: -

1. That the local NHS representatives be thanked for the information provided which was noted.
2. That an update report on the implementation of Sexual Health Services across Tees be provided to the Joint Committee following a period of approximately 12 months.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING IN BME COMMUNITY

Further to the meeting of the Joint Committee held on 11 October 2010 when information had been provided regarding service changes to community development workers involved in improving access to Mental Health Services for the BME Community the Scrutiny Support Officer submitted a report the purpose of which was to introduce representation from the local NHS to provide further information on this matter.

The Scrutiny Support Officer also referred to a letter received from Middlesbrough and Stockton MIND a copy of which was circulated at the meeting. In the letter it was indicated that although the financial pressures on the PCT were understood there was disappointment as it was

considered that significant progress had been achieved and there was a lack of confidence that the new approach by the PCT would be effective. It was also stated, however, that although the service had been decommissioned the work undertaken in terms of the connections made between BME communities and MIND and other mental health services would have lasting benefits. An assurance was given that until the end of March 2011 MIND would make every endeavour to deliver the service and ensure that the work had a sustained impact. Members acknowledged the significant work undertaken by MIND.

The Chair welcomed the representatives who highlighted the key areas of a briefing paper a copy of which had previously been circulated.

Following changes nationally to legislation and policy and locally to services available; the demography of the communities; and alternative approaches to addressing barriers to accessing mental health services a decision had been taken by NHS Tees not to re-commission Community Development Workers.

NHS Tees was working with the leading local provider of mental health services, Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust, to ensure that their requirements for their new duties in the legislation outlined were fulfilled. Such duties included contract negotiation and performance management of the provider to ensure diversity monitoring of service users, and that actions were taken to address barriers to accessing services and promote uptake by vulnerable and under-represented groups.

As the demographic composition of the BME community on Teesside had changed considerably since 2005 and continued to evolve it had been considered that Community Development Workers were no longer the best way to address low take-up of mental health services amongst BME communities. A more inclusive approach to increasing access to service and improving mental health and wellbeing was now being pursued and was considered to be more appropriate.

It was also noted that the BME community had itself developed new ways of providing support to individuals and there was a thriving network of voluntary, community and faith groups on Teesside.

NHS Tees had given an assurance that the BME community were made aware of the decision not to re-commission Community Development Workers; of alternative support available; and a commitment to ensuring access to services and promotion of mental health and well-being.

Engagement with BME communities would continue to be undertaken by NHS Tees, including by means of the Health Improvement and Communication and Engagement Teams, through TEWV and the Third and Independent Sector organisations including local MIND.

Although tackling ethnic inequalities and discrimination in terms of prevention, early intervention, equal access, appropriate and responsive care had been and would continue to be one of the greatest challenges facing service providers it was considered nonetheless that it was achievable through joint partnership working between communities, mental health providers and commissioners.

In commenting on the changes over the years the NHS representatives emphasised that the demographic composition of the BME community on Teesside had transformed considerably since 2005 and continued to evolve. The BME community was now far more diverse. The provisions of the Equality Act 2010 were reiterated. Such legislation aimed at strengthening and simplifying existing equality and anti-discrimination legislation.

AGREED that the representatives be thanked for the information provided which was noted.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee was scheduled for Monday 13 December 2010 at 10.00 a.m. in the Mandela Room, Town Hall, Middlesbrough.

NOTED