

Health Select Committee

A meeting of Health Select Committee was held on Monday, 23rd February, 2009.

Present: Cllr Mrs Ann Cains (Chairman), Cllr Paul Baker, Cllr Cains (vice Cllr 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: Phil Whitfield, Sandra Hill(North Tees Teaching Primary Care Trust)Carole Pearson, Jan Atkinson (North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust).

Apologies: were submitted on behalf of Cllr Beall and Cllr Mrs Nesbitt.

H Declarations of Interest

69/08

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

H Minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2008

70/08

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th November were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

H Draft Minutes of the meetings held on 15 December 2008 and 12 January 2009

71/08

The draft minutes of the meetings held on 15th December 2008 and 12th January 2009 were agreed as a correct record.

H Annual Healthcheck

72/08

Members were provided with information on the annual health check for both the North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust and the North Tees Teaching PCT.

There were 24 core standards the Trust and the PCT were required to self assess against which were broken down into several groups.

The North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust provided a presentation on their self assessment and stated that they had submitted 1900 pieces of evidence. The Trust were currently compliant with 23 out of the 24 standards but were hoping to be fully compliant before the deadline. They would advise Members in writing of the results of the final outstanding core standard.

Discussion was held on the MRSA target for the year which was 16 cases, so far this year there had been 12 cases. This was a significant improvement on the previous year where there had been 23 cases of MRSA; this indicated the amount of work that had been undertaken in order to reduce this figure. Every patient was screened for MRSA prior to being admitted and this was also now occurring for emergency patients.

Members discussed Clostridium Difficile Colitis (CDIF) and whether this was

indicated as cause of death on a person's death certificate. It was stated that CDIF would be put on the second part of the death certificate if CDIF had contributed to their death. It was a requirement from April 2008 that two Doctors signed the death certificate.

Further to the 'Baby P' report, procedures had been reviewed in order to ensure that the Trust had robust systems and procedures in place for safeguarding children. Detail was provided on the checks that were undertaken when children were admitted with suspect injuries.

Discussion was held on how the Trust gained the views of its patients particularly in relation to how 'cared for' they felt whilst in hospital. It was stated that the Healthcare Commission undertook a survey of patients each year, however it was expressed that, the Trust would like to undertake a more patient friendly survey in the future. Part of the Matrons role was to check with patients on the level of service they were receiving during their stay.

North Tees Teaching PCT also provided a presentation on their self assessment to which they were fully compliant and requested that they receive a formal written response by the Health Select Committee by 12th March 2009.

Discussion was held on the child measurement programme and the high levels of obesity in Stockton. Teenage pregnancy was another key areas discussed.

An explanation was provided on the choose and book system and the types of bookings that could not be made through this system. A leaflet had been produced identifying all of the choose and book facilities, including transport links etc. a copy of which would be provided to Members.

CONCLUDED that the Committee's formal response to the annual health checks be submitted in writing to the Trust and the PCT.

H

73/08

Scrutiny Review of Audiology

CONCLUDED that this item be withdrawn until the next meeting.

H

74/08

Work Programme

- To prepare questions for witnesses attending the next meeting**
- To review the project plan in respect of the current review**
- To discuss ideas for future review topics**

Members discussed ideas for future review topics and would be submitting Dial-a-Ride and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) to the Scrutiny Liaison Committee as possible future review topics.

CONCLUDED that the future work topics as identified be submitted to the Scrutiny Liaison Forum.

H

75/08

Chairman's Update

Members were provided with a copy of the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny minutes of 30th January, 2009 for their information.

The Sports Development Team had offered to provide a presentation to the Committee updating them on how their work could contribute to the health agenda. It was suggested that this take place during April/May.

The Patient Experience Team would be providing a presentation on the community based arrhythmia service.

There had been discussions at the Tees Valley Joint Select Committee regarding the forthcoming consultation on the NEAS application for foundation trust status. The Committee agreed that scrutiny input should be via the Tees Valley Joint Select Committee with input to a regional scrutiny committee as appropriate. The NEAS had also asked whether the Select Committee had a preference on the format for their annual report. Members agreed that they should receive a summary with a link to the full report.

CONCLUDED that the Chairman's update be noted.