

REGIONAL HEALTH SCRUTINY UPDATE

Summary

The Committee is requested to consider an update on the work of the regional health committees.

Detail

Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

1. Darlington Borough Council hosted (providing the Chair and support function) this Committee during 2022-2023.
2. The last meeting was held on 17 March 2023 (*note: the meeting was not quorate*) and included the following agenda items:
 - Minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2022 (see **Appendix 1**)
 - NHS England (North East and Yorkshire): Update on NHS Dental Services (see **Appendix 2** for presentation)
 - Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV): Quality Account (see **Appendix 3** for presentation)
 - North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB): Community Diagnostic Centres (*note: deferred to the next meeting*)
 - North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB): Clinical Services Strategy Update (see **Appendix 4** for presentation)

With regards the NHS Dental Services update, it was confirmed after the meeting that no NHS general dental services contracts within the Stockton-on-Tees area had been handed back in recent years. NHS England provided reassurance that when there are contract hand-backs, they would write out to all stakeholders (including the scrutiny committee) to make them aware – indeed, as part of any contractor requests for variation to their contracts, NHS England expect them to engage with scrutiny committees to get a view before any decisions are made.

Following the TEWV Quality Account presentation, the Committee expressed concern regarding the number of cases (58) where staff shifts during December 2022 had been greater than 13 hours (potentially impairing performance / decision-making due to fatigue). Members also probed elements of the quality metric data, specifically the Trust's performance in relation to patients feeling safe on their ward, the rates of physical intervention / restraint, and the overall experience of patients. In terms of TEWV's quality improvement priorities, the Committee acknowledged the work undertaken to put in place an overarching framework to address past and current issues, though stressed the need for proper engagement with patients and their families / carers to ensure positive change occurs.

3. As per the long-established rotational arrangements, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council will host the Committee during 2023-2024. The next Committee meeting, and first of the new municipal year, is scheduled for 28 July 2023, with agenda items to include a North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) response to their latest CQC inspection, NENC ICB updates regarding Community Diagnostic Centres (deferred from the March 2023 meeting) and Breast Services, and a TEWV report on the role and impact of their Lived Experience Directors.

Sustainability and Transformation Plan / Integrated Care System Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

4. Following a lengthy hiatus, Durham County Council (who support this Joint Committee) contacted scrutiny teams across the region in November 2022 with the intention of arranging a meeting for late-November / early-December 2022. However, following liaison with senior NENC ICB representatives, it was deemed that in light of the ongoing ICS briefings to the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee, a meeting of this Joint Committee (which involved similar Councillors) was likely to be a duplication and would not add value.
5. In related matters, as of 1 April 2023, the ICB took on commissioning responsibilities for NHS dentistry (along with pharmacy and optometry). A review into oral health and care has been commissioned to bring together existing intelligence and to work with key partners across the North East and North Cumbria to develop an in-depth understanding of the current issues regarding the state of oral health, and the commissioning and provision of oral health and care services - this is to include the views of the public and partners, and an evaluation of current services. Further information is available at the following link:
 - https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/media/0dibny1n/item-7-1a-appendix_1_oral_health_and_care_review.pdf
6. Continuing attempts to address long-standing health inequalities, a three-year programme is bringing together the NHS and Councils with voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations to tackle issues and do more to prevent ill health in the first place. Investment will support a range of initiatives, including extra support for the 'Deep End' network of GP practices in the region's most deprived communities. Further details can be found at the following link:
 - <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/news/posts/35m-plan-to-improve-health-in-regions-most-deprived-areas/>.
7. To celebrate its one-year anniversary, the NENC ICB has produced an animation to highlight its achievements alongside partners – see the following link:
 - <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/media/ou2gxojr/icb-year-1-animation.mp4>

North East Regional Health Scrutiny Committee

8. No meetings are currently scheduled.

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