

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. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) is hosting (providing the Chair and support function) this Committee during 2023-2024.
2. The first meeting of the current municipal year was held on 28 July 2023 and included the following agenda items:
 - Minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2022
 - Notes of the meeting held on 17 March 2023 (see **Appendix 1**)
 - Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee – Protocol and Terms of Reference
 - Tees Valley Breast Care Services
 - Tees Valley Community Diagnostic Centres
 - North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (NEAS) – CQC Inspections / Independent Review
 - Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) – Lived Experience Directors

During the Community Diagnostic Centres presentation, it was emphasised that this offer would operate on a 'referral only' basis (from primary and secondary care services), and that the public would need to be clear what the new Stockton 'hub' (due to be open by mid-2024 – earlier than the original estimate of April 2025) was and how it worked – it was not a drop-in centre, nor a hospital, but should instead be viewed as an additional imaging facility.

Further to their response to recent Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspections of its services, as well as the findings of an independent review of the Trust, NEAS held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 21 September 2023 at Mowden Park, Darlington. The presentation slides, including a look ahead to 2023-2024, can be found at the following link: https://www.neas.nhs.uk/media/209349/neas_agm_21_sept_2023.pdf.

3. The last meeting was held on 6 October 2023 (*note: the meeting was not quorate*) and included the following agenda items:

- Minutes of the meeting held on 28 July 2023 (see **Appendix 2**)
- North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Strategy / Joint Forward Plan
- Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) – CAMHS Update (see **Appendix 3** for additional submission)
- Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) – Adult Learning Disability Respite Services Update

A number of discussion points emerged during the presentation on the recently agreed North East and North Cumbria Joint Forward Plan (JFP) which provides a bridge between the longer-term Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) strategy and annual NHS operating plans. Members raised questions around several of the stated individual service action plans, including autism, primary care, trauma-informed services, and women's health. The value of maximising the use of the voluntary sector was also emphasised.

The two TEWV updates provoked a range of comments and queries from the Committee. Regarding CAMHS, Members drew attention to out-of-hours access issues, probed which organisations the Trust was linking-in with in relation to children and young people services, highlighted concerns around self-harm (often hidden), and requested further details of Mental Health Support Team (school-based) coverage. Following the Adult Learning Disability Respite Services update, the Committee asked for confirmation of the current number of beds available at the Aysgarth and Bankfields Court sites, raised concerns around transition into the service for younger people, and questioned how service-users and their families / carers could input into service development (particularly in relation to maximising flexibility).

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 wider regional health matters, leaders and national health experts gathered in the North East on 27 September 2023 to explore how the region can condemn its biggest driver of ill health and death to history. New figures from the ONS Annual Population Survey (APS) survey show the North East has seen the largest fall in smoking rates in England since 2005, with smoking more than halving from 29% of adults smoking in 2005 to 13.1% smoking in 2022. However, smoking remains the single biggest cause of cancer and ill health because cigarettes are uniquely lethal, costing the North East nearly £1 billion a year in medical, health and social care, lost earnings and smoking-related unemployment. Reducing smoking would also provide a much-needed boost to household incomes and the economy.

The event explored a range of topics around smoking, including the role of vaping and harm reduction, media campaigns in helping raise motivation to quit and reduce smoking prevalence, how stop smoking support can help high priority groups, and key policy levers to reduce smoking further. Further details can be found at the following link:

<https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/news/posts/can-the-north-east-lead-the-way-to-a-smokefree-future/>

6. Healthworks, a Newcastle-based community health charity which the ICB is partnering with to tackle the growing health inequalities that exist in the region, has published their latest Impact Report for 2022-2023 – this can be found at the following link:

<https://www.healthworksnewcastle.org.uk/about-us/impact-review2022-23/>

7. More locally, North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust (NTHFT) has now gone live with their patient engagement platform which will help patients book and amend appointments and receive their letters digitally. A new app-based booking system is being piloted for gastroenterology outpatients – further details can be found at:

https://www.nth.nhs.uk/news/trust-pilots-new-booking-system/?mc_cid=97c7e3651f&mc_eid=36e08daf91

North East Regional Health Scrutiny Committee

8. No meetings are currently scheduled.

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