

## Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee Chair's Update – November 2023

<b>Scrutiny Review – Access to GPs and Primary Medical Care</b>	
<b>Achieved since last meeting</b>	<p>At the meeting in September 2023, the Committee received a background briefing regarding this scrutiny topic. Consideration was then given to the draft scope and plan for the in-depth review which Members subsequently approved.</p> <p>The key aims of this review would be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the existing local 'access to GPs' landscape in the context of national / regional developments around this ongoing issue.</li> <li>• Ascertain current systems for accessing general practice services, the communication of these to the public, and how effective they are (including any variations across the Borough's providers).</li> <li>• Determine any areas which may assist in improving the experience of the local population, and practices themselves, when individuals wish to contact and / or access general practice services.</li> <li>• Share any identified good practice within the Borough's Primary Care Networks (PCNs).</li> </ul> <p>Several contributors had been identified for this work, namely the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB), Local Medical Committee (LMC), Hartlepool &amp; Stockton Health GP Federation, Primary Care Networks (PCNs), individual practices, Healthwatch, and, crucially, residents of the Borough. It was anticipated that the Committee's findings and recommendations would be presented to Cabinet in April 2024.</p> <p>The first evidence-gathering session was held at the Committee meeting in October 2023 and involved a detailed presentation by a NENC ICB representative covering existing primary care arrangements, how general practice works, current GP provision across the Borough, and the impact of the COVID pandemic on access. A national / regional context was also outlined in terms of recovery planning and how this was being approached locally.</p>
<b>Problems or concerns</b>	None
<b>Planned next month</b>	The second evidence-gathering session is scheduled to involve contributions from the Local Medical Committee (LMC) and Hartlepool and Stockton Health GP Federation.
<b>On track – yes / no</b>	Yes

<b>Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance</b>	
<b>Key Issues / Problems or Concerns</b>	<p><b>Healthwatch:</b> The Committee received an overview of the latest Healthwatch Stockton-on-Tees Annual Report (2022-2023) in September 2023 which included the three priorities for 2023-2024, namely a Growing Older project, a focus on pharmacy, and a rolling programme of coffee mornings to help reach deprived areas and aid in reducing inequalities. Presented by the</p>

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	<p>organisation’s Chair, Members subsequently raised questions on the new Youthwatch initiative, whether the coffee mornings would tap into existing gatherings or involve new opportunities, and the need to explore the impact of recent pharmacy closures on remaining providers.</p> <p><b>CQC / PAMMS Report Updates:</b> The Committee considered the latest CQC quarterly report (Q1 2023-2024), including PAMMS assessment feedback published during this period, at its meeting in September 2023. Members raised concerns about the continuing lack of CQC focus on three of the five established inspection domains, the completion (and quality) of the required post-inspection Action Plan for one particular provider, and the overall upgrading of South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (STHFT) despite it not meeting legal requirements.</p> <p>In related matters, the PAMMS Annual Report (Care Homes) for 2022-2023 was due to be considered in September 2023 but was deferred due to officer illness. This report was instead presented to the Committee in October 2023, with Members subsequently raising concerns about ongoing medication management issues within local care homes and downward trends in overall ratings.</p> <p><b>Well-Led Programme:</b> The Committee was presented with an update on the SBC Well-Led Programme at its meeting in October 2023. Praising the impact of this initiative, Members encouraged SBC to do what it can to sell the programme to those from providers currently graded ‘Requires Improvement’.</p> <p><b>Public Health:</b> Awaiting confirmation of when the SBC Director of Public Health Annual Report (a statutory responsibility) will be available for the Committee to consider.</p> <p><b>‘Health Structures’ Presentation:</b> To assist in understanding the current Integrated Care System (ICS) landscape, an informal ‘health structures’ presentation was arranged for the Committee on 17 October 2023 – this was delivered by the NENC ICB Director of Place (Stockton) and covered roles / responsibilities of ICBs, ICPs and the new ‘place-based’ partnership which held its first meeting in June 2023.</p>
<p><b>Requests for more information</b></p>	<p><b>Healthwatch:</b> The Committee requested further details of the Mental Health (Wellbeing) Hub which was referenced during the Healthwatch Stockton-on-Tees Annual Report 2022-2023 presentation – this had since been provided and circulated to Members for information.</p> <p><b>CQC / PAMMS Report Updates:</b> A number of CQC-related queries were raised during consideration of the latest quarterly report regarding published inspections (Q1 2023-2024) – these were relayed to local CQC representatives, and responses by the CQC have since been shared with the Committee.</p>

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NHS Updates / Consultations	
<b>Key Issues / Problems or Concerns</b>	<p><b>North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust (NTHFT) &amp; South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (STHFT):</b> The 'hospital group' comprising NTHFT and STHFT has recently appointed a new joint Chief Executive Officer (Stacey Hunter) who will commence post in early-2024.</p> <p><b>North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (NEAS):</b> Held its Annual General Meeting on 21 September 2023 (attended by Chair of ASCH Select Committee). The presentation slides, including a look ahead to 2023-2024, can be found at <a href="https://www.neas.nhs.uk/media/209349/neas_agm_21_sept_2023.pdf">https://www.neas.nhs.uk/media/209349/neas_agm_21_sept_2023.pdf</a>.</p> <p><b>Smoking:</b> 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. 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 <a href="https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/news/posts/can-the-north-east-lead-the-way-to-a-smokefree-future/">https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/news/posts/can-the-north-east-lead-the-way-to-a-smokefree-future/</a>.</p> <p><b>Health Inequalities:</b> 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 <a href="https://www.healthworksnewcastle.org.uk/about-us/impact-review2022-23/">https://www.healthworksnewcastle.org.uk/about-us/impact-review2022-23/</a>.</p> <p><b>North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust (NTHFT):</b> The Trust 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 <a href="https://www.nth.nhs.uk/news/trust-pilots-new-booking-system/?mc_cid=97c7e3651f&amp;mc_eid=36e08daf91">https://www.nth.nhs.uk/news/trust-pilots-new-booking-system/?mc_cid=97c7e3651f&amp;mc_eid=36e08daf91</a>.</p>
<b>Requests for more information</b>	None

Regional Health Committees	
<b>Key Issues / Problems or Concerns</b>	<p><b>Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee:</b> As part of the agreed rotational arrangements, the chair and support function for the Committee is being undertaken by SBC during 2023-2024.</p> <p>The last meeting took place on 6 October 2023 (<i>note: the meeting was inquorate</i>) with agenda items covering the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Strategy and accompanying Joint Forward Plan (JFP), along with TEWV updates on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and Adult Learning Disability Respite Provision. The next meeting is scheduled for</p>

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	<p>15 December 2023 – anticipated items include a winter plan update, future plans for non-surgical oncology, an update on the state of dentistry, and community water fluoridation proposals.</p> <p>In other matters of interest, details of a proposed ‘Partnership Agreement’ have also recently emerged as part of the ongoing development of the Group Model between NTHFT and STHFT. An engagement phase is taking place during October 2023 before a Joint Partnership Board and the boards of the two Trusts intend to approve the final document in November 2023. Consideration is being given as to how the Committee may wish to provide input into this development.</p> <p><b>Southern Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) / Integrated Care System (ICS) Joint Health Scrutiny Committee:</b> No meetings are currently scheduled.</p> <p><b>North East Regional Health Committee:</b> No meetings are currently scheduled.</p>
<p><b>Requests for more information</b></p>	<p><b>Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee:</b> Further details requested from TEWV about Mental Health Support Team (schools-based) coverage and the current capacity at Aysgarth and Bankfields Court respite sites.</p>

Monitoring	
<p><b>Key Issues / Problems or Concerns</b></p>	<p>The following updates have been received by the Committee since the last Executive Scrutiny Committee meeting:</p> <p><u>Care Homes for Older People</u> The fifth update on progress of outstanding actions in relation to recommendations from the Committee’s previously completed review of Care Homes for Older People was considered in September 2023. Only one recommendation (<i>that all care homes be required to work towards Dementia Friendly accreditation as part of the new contract arrangements</i>) was yet to be signed-off as complete, and Members were informed of positive developments regarding Positive Approach to Care (PAC) training for care home staff. It was also noted that seven care homes were now accredited with dementia friendly status (surpassing the original target group of five), with the Council working with a further five providers to achieve a similar standing. Members subsequently agreed that the Action Plan approved by the Committee following the original review could now be signed-off as complete (no further updates required).</p> <p><u>Day Opportunities for Adults</u> The second update on progress of outstanding actions in relation to recommendations from the Committee’s previously completed review of Day Opportunities for Adults was considered in October 2023. Members expressed disappointment at the lack of training sessions with bus providers to help raise awareness on how they can deliver their services to people who use day opportunities, as</p>

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	<p>well as concern around the clarity of bus stop locations in Stockton High Street (it was stated that SBC has a key role here and that this was not all down to the bus companies). Since some actions were still not complete, a further update would be required in early-2024 (this would need to include feedback on a forthcoming event at Newtown Community Centre which would include considerations around the day opportunity needs of those individuals transitioning from Children's Services into Adult Social Care).</p> <p>Future progress updates regarding previously completed reviews will be received by the Committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day Opportunities for Adults (TBC)</li> <li>• Care at Home (TBC – late-2023 / early-2024)</li> </ul>
<b>Requests for more information</b>	None

### Remaining 2023-2024 Scrutiny Reviews

- Adult Safeguarding

### Remaining 2023-2024 Meetings (all 4.00pm unless stated)

Tuesday 21 November 2023	Tuesday 20 February 2024
Tuesday 19 December 2023	Tuesday 19 March 2024
Tuesday 23 January 2024	