

Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee Chair's Update – March 2024

Scrutiny Review – Access to GPs and Primary Medical Care	
Achieved since last meeting	<p>The fourth evidence-gathering session took place at the meeting in January 2024 which focused on submissions from the Clinical Directors (accompanied by Operational Leads) of the Borough's four Primary Care Networks (PCNs). Areas outlined and discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of any access issues within the PCN area (pressure points at different times of the week / day, impact of COVID, staffing). • Management of patient contact (systems, prioritisation, triage) – communication to patients / are these effective / any issues? • Mechanisms for the public to raise concerns about access issues and how this is communicated / managed / responded to. • Do practices seek feedback around access – how has this informed arrangements? • Summary of any planned changes within PCN practices to improve access or improve patient experience (e.g. linked to capacity and access plan, modern general practice access models, etc.).
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	The next (and final) evidence session in March 2024 (originally planned for February 2024) will consider patient / public views on this scrutiny topic, including feedback from the Committee's survey which has been issued to the Patient Participation Groups (PPGs) within each of the Borough's 21 general practices.
On track – yes / no	No – due to the need for more time to collect / collate the patient / public views element, the Committee's final report will now be presented to Cabinet in June 2024 (as opposed to May 2024).

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p>Public Health: The SBC Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022 was considered by the Committee in January 2024 – Members looked forward to a timelier production of the next annual report.</p> <p>Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB): The Committee considered the TSAB Annual Report 2022-2023 at its meeting in February 2024. Member questions focused on the conversion rate of reported concerns to Section 42 enquiries, joint-working between adults and children's services (also raised during consideration of last year's Annual Report), the impact of promotional campaigns regarding adult safeguarding matters, available resources within this area of work, and the support given to staff who work in this domain.</p> <p>SBC Safeguarding Concerns – Analysis (including DoLS activity): A report was presented to the Committee in February</p>

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	<p>2024 in relation to SBC analysis on safeguarding concerns – this included commentary on Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) matters. Challenges associated in recruiting Relevant Persons Representatives (RPRs) were raised and discussed by Members.</p> <p>CQC / PAMMS Report Updates: The Committee considered the latest Care Quality Commission (CQC) quarterly report (Q3 2023-2024), including PAMMS assessment feedback published during this period, at its meeting in February 2024. Members expressed deep concern about the latest Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) CQC outcomes, and discussion ensued about the historical issues raised by the Committee in relation to this Trust (culminating in the Committee sending a letter to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care back in April 2022 calling for a public inquiry). It was agreed that TEWVs Lead Governor be asked to attend a forthcoming meeting to inform Members what the Governors view of this latest CQC report was and what they were doing to address the concerns outlined by the regulator. An invite to the Committee meeting in April 2024 has since been issued.</p> <p>Members were also informed of the imminent closure of Teesdale Lodge Nursing Home, with assurances provided over the transfer of residents and staff to other services. Further details on this development were subsequently shared with the Committee.</p>
<p>Requests for more information</p>	<p>None</p>

NHS Updates / Consultations

<p>Key Issues / Problems or Concerns</p>	<p>New Health Scrutiny Arrangements: New health scrutiny arrangements began on 31 January 2024. The main focus of the changes is the removal of the power of health overview and scrutiny committees (HOSCs) to formally refer matters of concern relating to major service reconfiguration to the Secretary of State. Instead, the Secretary of State may act proactively, further to a request that he or she may receive from anyone – although such action would be subject to consultation with the HOSC, amongst others. Guidance has been produced by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) summarising these changes (see https://www.cfgs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024-01-09-HEALTH-SCRUTINY-PRIMER.pdf) – this has been circulated to the Committee.</p> <p>Grange Dental Practice: In January 2024, the Committee Chair was notified of a proposed minor relocation of its services by Grange Dental Practice (Norton). These proposals were subsequently shared with the Committee (as well as relevant Cabinet Members and Directors) for comment – views were then submitted back to the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB), with Members expressing no objections to the planned changes.</p>
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	<p>North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB): NENC ICB is providing guidance in relation to staying well and assisting services during the current cold season. Its 'Here to Help this winter' webpage promotes a range of advice on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking after yourself • Think pharmacy first • GP practices • NHS 111 • Urgent Treatment Centres • A&E and 999 • Looking after your mental health • Be wise, immunise (vaccinations) <p>For further details, see https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/here-to-help-winter/.</p>
<p>Requests for more information</p>	<p>None</p>

Regional Health Committees	
<p>Key Issues / Problems or Concerns</p>	<p>Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee: 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 15 December 2023 – items included a winter plan update, future plans for non-surgical oncology, an update on the state of dentistry, and community water fluoridation proposals. The next meeting is scheduled for 15 March 2024, with anticipated items to include both the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) and North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (NEAS) Quality Accounts. An update on developments around the recent NENC ICB re-structure has also been requested.</p> <p>In addition, the Committee requested an informal briefing on TEWVs use of physical intervention / restraint, a source of previous Member concern – this has since been arranged and will take place on 4 March 2024.</p> <p>Southern Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) / Integrated Care System (ICS) Joint Health Scrutiny Committee: No meetings are currently scheduled.</p> <p>North East Regional Health Committee: No meetings are currently scheduled.</p>
<p>Requests for more information</p>	<p>None</p>

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Monitoring	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p>No updates have been received by the Committee since the last Executive Scrutiny Committee meeting.</p> <p>Future progress updates regarding previously completed reviews will be received by the Committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Day Opportunities for Adults (TBC) • Care at Home (March 2024)
Requests for more information	None

Next Scrutiny Review
TBD

Remaining 2023-2024 Meetings (all 4.00pm unless stated)
Tuesday 19 March 2024