

## REGIONAL HEALTH SCRUTINY UPDATE

### Summary

The Committee is requested to consider an update on the work of the regional health scrutiny committees. Some recent health-related developments impacting on the Tees Valley and / or wider North East and North Cumbria footprint are also highlighted.

### Detail

#### Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

1. Hartlepool Borough Council is hosting (providing the Chair and support function) this Committee during 2024-2025.
2. The last meeting was held on 7 November 2024 and included the following agenda items:
  - Minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2024 (see **Appendix 1**)
  - North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB): Winter Plan Update
  - Opioid Prescribing and Dependency Across the Tees Valley
  - Tees Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan
  - Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV): Health Inequalities in the Tees Valley
3. The next meeting is scheduled for 9 January 2025 – anticipated items include a further TEWV update on Tees Respite Care, a Clinical Services Strategy Update ('Group' model), and a Palliative and End-of-Life Care Strategy presentation.

#### 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, the NENC ICB continues to promote the **NHS 'Be wise, immunise' campaign** to vaccinate high-risk people against COVID-19 and flu. Details on the following can be found at <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/here-to-help-winter/covid-19-and-flu-vaccinations/>:
  - How to book a vaccination
  - Eligible cohorts
  - Key messages

- Local COVID-19 and flu vaccination contacts
  - Walk-in clinics
6. The NENC ICB '**Here to Help this winter**' webpage provides information on choosing the right NHS service for your needs, looking after your mental health, keeping a well-stocked medicine cabinet, or getting your vaccines (see <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/here-to-help-winter/>).
  7. Health leaders in the region have welcomed new Government money to **help people back into work** by offering extra support in health services such as GP practices and hospitals. The Government has confirmed funding for the North East and North Cumbria Health and Growth Accelerator scheme, to place work and health coaches in GP practices and other services to offer advice, coaching and support to people when health issues become a barrier to working. See <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/news/posts/nhs-to-help-patients-back-to-work/> for more information.
  8. Ahead of the NENC ICB signing up to the Menopause Workplace Pledge, a call to improve **support for women through the menopause** was issued in October 2024 – for more details, see <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/news/posts/let-s-do-better-on-menopause-says-region-s-nhs/>.
  9. Members are reminded of the **NENC ICB annual report and accounts** 1 April 2023 – 31st March 2024 which showcases its activity over the past year – a summary of this can be found at the following link: <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/media/xwanaga0/annual-report-summary-2023-24-final-web.pdf>.

#### North East Regional Health Scrutiny Committee

10. No meetings are currently scheduled.

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