

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

A meeting of the Health Scrutiny Panel was held on 7 April 2009.

PRESENT: Councillor Dryden (Chair); Councillors Cole, Dunne, Lancaster, Mrs H Pearson, Purvis and P Rogers.

OFFICERS: J Bennington and J Ord.

****AN APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE** was submitted on behalf of Councillor Carter.

**** DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made at this point of the meeting.

**** MINUTES – PRACTICE BASED COMMISSIONING**

The minutes of the meeting of the Health Scrutiny Panel held on 19 March 2009 were submitted.

Members referred to the detailed evidence received so far in relation to the Panel's scrutiny review of Practice Based Commissioning. It was hoped that a draft final report would shortly be submitted for the Panel's consideration.

For completeness it was suggested that the views and perspective of the Council's Social Care Department be sought for inclusion in the Panel's Final Report.

AGREED as follows: -

1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Health Scrutiny Panel held on 19 March 2009 be approved.
2. That the Chair and the Scrutiny Support Officer seek the views of the Council's Social Care Department regarding their perspective on Practice Based Commissioning for inclusion in the Panel's draft Final Report.

STROKE SERVICES – SCOPING PAPER

The Scrutiny Support Officer submitted a report which outlined a possible approach to conducting a review into local stroke services the next topic for investigation as part of the Panel's agreed work programme.

The Panel considered the following suggested areas for examination: -

- a) what a stroke is and the different types of strokes;
- b) appropriate statistical information such as the rate of incidence, mortality rates and comparative information both regionally and nationally;
- c) prevailing national policy such as the National Stroke Strategy published by the Department of Health in 2007 and how its reflected in the local position;
- d) in terms of local services information be sought from:-
 - the Primary Care Trust on the current and future spend/cost of stroke services; and
 - the South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust about the approach it adopts when dealing with stroke services in the acute sector;
 - Council's Department of Social Care about the level of integration of services to deal with people who had survived a stroke;

- e) stroke treatments and in particular the co-ordination of local services aimed at assisting people following a stroke;
- f) roles of carers and services available to them;
- g) availability of appropriate services to assist people following a stroke such as access to leisure services and modifications to homes;
- h) in order to help understand how a system of care works in practice and identify possible areas for improvement it was suggested that information be sought on one or two anonymised case studies to track someone's experience of stroke services both in the acute sector and subsequent support in the community.

It was confirmed that the North East Regional Manager of the Stroke Association would be attending the meeting of the Panel to be held on 30 April 2009 in order to provide a briefing on matters such as what a stroke is; the different types of strokes; related issues such as the prevalence of strokes; impact of early intervention; and key areas of national policy.

In addition to the areas identified above Members suggested that the following be examined as part of its overall review: -

- i) availability of appropriate services to meet the needs of different age groups;
- ii) requirements of the National Service Framework for Older People;
- iii) preventative measures including areas such as raising awareness to lifestyle choices;
- iv) links to Cardiovascular Disease;
- v) treatments and drugs and if the range of such medication was the same as that available in other UK areas;
- vi) hospital discharge arrangements.

Members were mindful that the topic for review was extensive and whilst there was a need to compile sufficient background information it was agreed that the Panel should focus on particular aspects for the scrutiny review.

AGREED as follows: -

1. That the suggested approach to conducting a review into local stroke services as outlined be approved.
2. That the possible terms of reference for the scrutiny review into local stroke services be considered at a subsequent meeting of the Panel following the proposed briefing from the North East Regional Manager of the Stroke Association.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS – CAR PARKING CHARGES – JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

The Chair referred to recent publicity in the local media regarding the changes to the car parking charges at James Cook University Hospital.

Given the increased parking charges, which in some cases had doubled, Members expressed concern at the impact of such changes with particular regard to it acting as a possible deterrent to patients accessing services.

The Chair confirmed that a letter had been sent to the South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust with a view to ascertaining the process and rationale for the changes to the pricing structure for car parking and an indication as to the utilisation of such revenue.

In view of the current workload of the Panel it was suggested that an additional meeting be arranged to consider such information.

As the likely impact extended beyond Middlesbrough the Panel discussed the possibility of seeking the views of other local authorities in the Tees Valley area and undertaking a joint scrutiny review.

AGREED that a meeting of the Health Scrutiny Panel be arranged in approximately three weeks time and that representatives of the South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust and their private sector partner, Endeavour be invited to attend the meeting with a view to providing information regarding the process and rationale for changes to the car parking charges at James Cook University Hospital.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS – BARGATE RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME CLOSURE

Members referred to the recent decision by Anchor Homes to close the Bargate Residential Care Home.

Given the importance of ensuring that the Council within its area of responsibility had adequate resources to be able to deal with such circumstances in a short period of time it was suggested that the matter be referred to the Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel.

AGREED that the matter be drawn to the attention of the Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel.