

**HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL
19 APRIL 2012**

**CARE OF VULNERABLE OLDER PEOPLE IN
JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL**

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To introduce senior representatives from NHS Tees, the South of Tees Clinical Commissioning Group, Tees Esk & Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust, the Dementia Advisory Service & South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, in attendance to speak about the care of vulnerable older people in James Cook University Hospital.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the Panel notes the information gathered at the meeting today and incorporates it into the overall review.
3. That the Panel considers the next steps it would like to take in considering this topic.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

4. The Panel will recall that it is currently undertaking a joint piece of work with the Social Care & Adult Services Scrutiny Panel, on the experience of vulnerable older people in care settings. As logic dictates, the Health Scrutiny Panel was to focus on healthcare settings and decided to concentrate its efforts on what takes place at James Cook University Hospital.
5. The Panel has, thus far, had detailed conversations with senior representatives from NHS Tees (as a commissioner) and South Tees Hospitals Foundation Trust (as a provider of hospital services). Those discussions have centred on a number of key issues on how the interests of vulnerable older people are protected within the acute hospital environment, as well as how services should develop in the future.
6. At the conclusion of the last discussion, the Panel identified a number of questions it felt it still needed to explore, before any attempt was made to bring together a final report. To consider these questions, the Panel felt it would be useful to hold a roundtable discussion with a number of interested, and involved, organisations. The Panel felt that by holding a roundtable discussion, it would enable it to hear a number of different perspectives, before moving towards the production of a final report.

7. Those representatives attending today will be from South of Tees Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Tees, South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, the Dementia Advisory Service and the Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust. The questions are outlined below.
 - 7.1 *It seems beyond doubt that there will be more older people in the future, with a greater proportion living to a very old age, with multiple health needs. How does an acute hospital, such as JCUH, need to be configured to adequately meet this demographic change, as a matter of routine?*
 - 7.2 *What are the barriers to doing this?*
 - 7.3 *What can commissioners do to ensure that that providers respond to such demographic developments? Do they have all of the tools necessary to 'commission-out' bad practice?*
 - 7.4 *Specifically on Older People with Mental Health needs, what does JCUH need to do, that it isn't doing now, to improve the service and experience on offer?*
 - 7.5 *Does JCUH have mental health support of sufficient capacity for the numbers of vulnerable older people present in JCUH at any one time?*
 - 7.6 *To what extent is the improving of vulnerable older people's experience a resource issue and to what extent is it about developing appropriate working practices?*
 - 7.7 *How will we know if we are meeting the needs of vulnerable older people at JCUH? What does success look like?*
 - 7.8 *How can other parts of the health and social care economy play their part?*
8. It is anticipated that the meeting will essentially be a roundtable debate, using the questions outlined above as a basis for debate. Once the Panel has held the debate at the meeting, the Panel is asked to consider what it would like to do next. Specifically, the Panel is asked to consider whether it would like to pursue any further lines of enquiry, or if it feels it has collected sufficient evidence to request the drafting of a final report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

9. No background papers were used in the preparation of this paper.

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