

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

A meeting of the Health Scrutiny Panel was held on 11 March 2014.

PRESENT: Councillors Dryden (Chair), Junier, S Khan, G Purvis (as substitute for Councillor Biswas) and P Purvis.

OFFICERS: J Bennington and E Pout.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were submitted on behalf of Councillors Biswas, Cole, Davison, McPartland and Councillor Brunton, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest made at this point of the meeting.

1 MINUTES - HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL 18 FEBRUARY 2014

The minutes of the meeting of the Health Scrutiny Panel held on 18 February 2014 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

2 MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES CAPACITY

The Panel considered a draft Final Report based on the evidence received so far which included a list of conclusions and discussions for further discussion.

As indicated at the meeting of the Panel held on 18 February 2014 the Panel acknowledged that the previous National Service Framework had provided a good focus, targets and incentives for the Mental Health and Wellbeing Partnership and although there were good intentions there was currently a lack of both national and local strategic direction which together with other factors had hampered the effectiveness of the Partnership and lessened the opportunity to constructively criticise policy implementation. Members reiterated the importance for the links to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment to be reinstated or established with the Partnership.

In commenting on services available a Member specifically asked for clarification as to what was provided if required in relation to persons in prison and following their release.

AGREED as follows:-

1. That the draft Final Report together with the conclusions and recommendations as outlined be approved subject to the following:-

(i) That for the purpose of the Final Report an alternative to the word 'de-integration' be considered such as 'de-centralisation'.

(ii) That the third 'the' be deleted in paragraph 29.

(iii) That the Overview and Scrutiny Board consider the possible inclusion in the 2014/2015 Scrutiny Review Programme of a scrutiny review into the mental health services offered where required to persons whilst in and after leaving prison.

(iv) That conclusions (a), (c) and (d) be expanded upon and the relevant paragraphs within the main part of the report referred to.

(v) That conclusion (e) be expanded upon and refer to the need for further national strategic direction.

(vi) That on behalf of the Panel the Chair and Vice- Chair write a letter to the Secretary of State for Health outlining the points raised in respect of conclusion (e).

(vii) That recommendation (b) emphasises the need for resilient mechanisms to be in place to ensure that the Mental Health and Wellbeing Partnership has links with the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

(viii) That recommendation (c) be strengthened and refers to the need for mechanisms in place to ensure the links between the Public Health Team and the Mental Health and Wellbeing Partnership in producing the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

2. That taking into account the above recommendations the draft Final Report be revised and following consultation and approval of the Panel's Chair and Vice-Chair the report be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

3. That the Final Report be circulated to representatives who had provided evidence on the review with regard to its factual accuracy.

3 **NORTH EAST AMBULANCE SERVICE - QUALITY PRIORITIES**

Subsequent to the circulation of the agenda and in view of the time constraints involved the Chair had agreed to the inclusion of the following item on the agenda for this meeting as a matter of urgency.

The Scrutiny Support Officer presented an introductory report regarding the Quality Priorities for the North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (NEAS). It was reported that the Trust was in the process of compiling its operational and strategic plans and its quality report and sought Members' views on the current 'long list' of proposed quality priorities.

The long-list was made-up of 2013/2014 proposals that had not been 'short listed' and a list of new proposals identified through the process so far for 2014/2015 as shown in the appendix to the report submitted.

It was confirmed that a copy of the Quality Report would be produced in April for formal consultation but NEAS had requested an earlier input from the Panel and for comments to be submitted by 14 March 2014.

Members identified a number of areas for clarification including the reasons why certain information had been shown to be redacted and the use of the wording 'cultural barometer' as shown in the scheduled provided.

In commenting on recent scrutiny reviews including winter pressures Members referred to a number of local concerns which had been raised during such processes.

AGREED that given the short timescale within which to submit comments to NEAS the Scrutiny Support Officer circulates information on recent Panel recommendations and their alignment to the list of priorities as provided by NEAS for Members' consideration prior to submission to NEAS.