

TEES VALLEY HEALTH SCRUTINY JOINT COMMITTEE

11th March, 2013

PRESENT:-

Representing Darlington Borough Council:

Councillors Newall (in the Chair) and J. Taylor.

Representing Hartlepool Borough Council:

Councillors Fisher and Hall.

Representing Middlesbrough Council

Councillor Harvey (as Substitute for Councillor Dryden)

Representing Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council:

Councillor Carling.

Representing Stockton-On-Tees Borough Council:

Councillors Javed and Mrs Womphrey.

Present as an observer: Councillor Skilbeck, Hambleton District Council.

APOLOGIES – Councillor H. Scott, Ada Burns and Miriam Davidson (Darlington Borough Council); Councillor S. Akers - Belcher (Hartlepool Borough Council), Councillors Cole, Dryden, Mrs Pearson; Mike Robinson and Gill Rowlings (Middlesbrough Council), Councillors Kay, Mrs Wall and M. Ameen (Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council) and Councillor Wilburn (Stockton-On-Tees Borough Council).

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – A. Metcalfe (Darlington Borough Council), L. Stones (Hartlepool Borough Council) and P. Mennear (Stockton-On-Tees Borough Council).

EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES –

Ken Ross, Public Health Specialist and Chris Sivers, Assistant Director Development and Commissioning Darlington Borough Council; Edward Kunonga, Director of Public Health for Middlesbrough Council; and Julia Weldon, Director of Public Health for Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council.

36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Councillor Javed (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council) declared a Percuniary Interest in respect of any matters arising in relation to Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust as his employer.

37. NOTES – Submitted –The Notes (previously circulated) of the informal meeting of the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee held on 4th February 2013.

RESOLVED – That the notes of the meetings be approved.

38. WINTER PREPAREDNESS – FEEDBACK FROM TEES VALLEY LOCAL AUTHORITIES

– Pursuant to Minute 25/December/2012 and the resolution that a letter be sent to each of the Tees Valley Local Authorities requesting take up figures of front line staff who have received their flu vaccinations. Responses from all Tees Valleys Local Authorities have been received (previously circulated) and submitted for the Joint Scrutiny Committee's consideration.

Last year, the Joint Scrutiny Committee carried out a similar exercise and suggested that Local Authorities intensify efforts to ensure that as many frontline social care staff, directly employed or commissioned service providers, be immunised for Seasonal Flu. The Joint Scrutiny Committee considers that the immunisation of frontline social care staff, or those staff employed by commissioned providers extremely important and believes it would ensure that less sick days were lost to seasonal flu and therefore make services easier to sustain. It has significant impact on the protection of the health and wellbeing of all of the vulnerable people who regularly receive social care support. Members feel it is a relatively straightforward measure, which can be taken to protect an already vulnerable group.

The responses received demonstrates that Local Authorities have acted upon the Joint Scrutiny Committee's suggestion and are making an effort to encourage their frontline staff to be vaccinated, although, numbers are low they appear to be slowly increasing.

Mr Ken Ross, Public Health Specialist reported that in Darlington, staff working with special needs pupils were offered vaccinations, but as a number of schools have converted into Academies they have not been offered the vaccination and the figure reflects that. The Council also offers vaccinations to other key front line staff i.e. Street Scene. It has previously been offered to relevant staff through the Council's Occupational Health Service, however, the national shortage of the vaccination this year meant that the Council had to find another provider and a decision was made to offer staff flu vouchers. Relevant staff were issued with the voucher and received the vaccination at a Pharmacy. Staff were keen to be vaccinated and have acted as champions to promote vaccinations throughout their teams.

RESOLVED – (a) That the responses be noted.

(b) That each Local Authority be thanked for their responses with recognition that more needs to be done to achieve 100% compliance of all frontline staff to be vaccinated.

39. TEES VALLEY HEALTH AND WELL BEING BOARDS – OVERVIEW – The Director of Public Health, Middlesbrough prepared a report on behalf of all Tees Valley Local Authorities (previously circulated) which updated the Joint Scrutiny Committee on the progress made in establishing their Health and Well Being Boards.

The submitted report outlined that all Tees Valley Local Authorities have established Shadow Health and Wellbeing Boards and have made good progress moving forward ahead of the formalisation of the Board's on 1st April 2013. Mr Edward Kunonga, Director of Public Health, Middlesbrough introduced the report highlighting that much of the Boards' emphases have been placed on establishing new relationships and developing governance structures for the Boards. A variety of development and engagement activity has taken place across the Tees Valley including high profile events, facilitated development sessions with Board members and online surveys. All

Health and Well Being Boards have membership beyond the statutory requirements. In addition to the core statutory membership there are a variety of other key partner agencies from across the Tees Valley represented. Relationships between the Boards and partners are proving successful and relationships with the newly formed Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) are proving beneficial with Boards drawing on CCGs' access to a range of staff with clinical, managerial and commissioning expertise.

It was noted that all Health and Well Being Boards were making good progress in identifying and agreeing shared priorities and have agreed their Joint Health and Well Being Strategies. All Boards have used their respective Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Marmot principles as a base to develop their Strategies and all the priorities agreed how similarity across the Tees Valley.

Peter Mennear, Scrutiny Officer reported that in Stockton, there are no Providers on the Health and Well Being Board membership as Providers are involved through the Health and Wellbeing Partnership; this acts as the 'delivery arm' of the Board. The Partnership have a much wider membership including Police/Fire representatives, a range of council services, the voluntary sector, as well as Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members. There are two joint meetings a year of the Board and Partnership which will enable discussion and formulation of the Health and Well Being Strategy and JSNA. Mr Mennear added that in September 2012, the Shadow Health and Well Being Board in Stockton underwent a Peer Challenge which identified that the Board had made good progress and advised on how to work with Providers.

Councillor Hall reported that in Hartlepool, there would be a different set of relationships given that Hartlepool Borough Council would be reverting back to the Committee System in the new municipal year. The Health and Well Being Board membership may need to be altered to reflect this change and consideration would be needed regarding the Boards relationship with the Scrutiny Committee. It was noted that there would be one Statutory Scrutiny Committee which would involve cross party Members and be Chair by an Opposition Councillor, its remit would include the Councils Health and Community Safety responsibilities.

Chris Sivers, Assistant Director of Development and Commissioning reported that in Darlington a wellbeing approach has been taken towards to Health and Well Being Board. Going forward the membership was likely to change to include Providers such as the NHS Foundation Trusts and the Probation Service, and also the Leader of the Opposition. There are three delivery Groups situated underneath the Board namely Joint Strategic Commissioning Group, Business Group and Provider Engagement Group. It was envisaged that the majority of the work would be done within those Groups.

Julia Weldon, Director of Public Health Redcar and Cleveland reported that Redcar's Health and Well Being Board has agreed its Health and Well Being Strategy and arrangements to move forward. Sitting underneath the Board would be a Health Well Being Executive with two Delivery Groups under that, a Joint Commissioning Group and a Children and Young People Group (similar to the previous Children's Trusts arrangements). Work is also on going with the Local Strategic Partnerships considering the wider determinants of health. Ms Weldon also highlighted the benefits of the Directors of Public Health from across the Tees Valley meeting on a weekly basis to

discuss the governance arrangements of the shared services and the delivery of Health and Well Being Strategies.

She suggested that there would also be opportunities for the Health and Well Being Boards working together and considering what could be jointly commissioned across the Tees Valley. There is a good history of working together in Tees Valley through Public Health England, North East Commissioning Services and Clinical Commissioning Groups and tackling some of the big health issues. Mr Kunonga reported that there is also Tees Valley Health and Social Care Forum which regularly meets and its remit has been extended to include health and well-being issues.

Particular reference was made to Health and Well Being Boards lobbying Central Government. Mr Kunonga advised that Health and Well Being Boards as a collective or individually could lobby the Government and more often than not, it may be, 'as many voices as possible' join forces and in some instances it may be that the Board work with Scrutiny Committees to also support the same cause. Members agreed that lobbying was an important role of the Health and Well Being Boards with the public health funding being a prime example. Members commented that in two years' time Health and Well Being Boards may need to 'flex their muscles' again on this issue.

Concerns were expressed that Health and Well Being Boards needed to avoid being 'talking shops' and have a broader focus on the wider determinants of health. Members were made aware that the changes to the Welfare Reforms which would impact on Health and Well Being Boards and further discussions were needed to consider its impact on adult social care.

Members welcomed the prospect of joint working and the Assistant Director reported that Darlington is already tied to County Durham for the provision of some services and Tees Valley for others. She stated that Darlington would happily work in whichever direction as long as the best value for service could be achieved.

Discussion ensued about the prospect of pooled budgets with CCGs and Health and Well Being Boards and that more exploration was needed. Decisions would be made around the Strategic objectives of the Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) to enable commissioning to be undertaken for the benefit of the population as a whole; with all partners being acutely aware of finance pressures that each organisation is facing and the potential impact it has.

Reference was also made to accountability of Health and Well Being Boards and Officers expected that debates and discussions would be carried out in an open and transparent way and therefore the accountability would be shared. It would be a shame if the Board had to use its statutory powers and refer matters to the NHS Commissioning Board and it was hoped that agreements would be made to prevent it ever getting that stage.

Mr Ross reminded Members that there were other mechanisms to hold the NHS to account such as NHS Commissioning Board, Health Watch and Monitor. Mr Kunonga added that Scrutiny Committee also would be able to review or scrutinise decisions or actions in the usual way as it would with any Local Authority Committee. The Health and Well Being Boards could also ask Scrutiny Committees to undertake pieces of work for them and make recommendations.

The Joint Scrutiny Committee thanked the Officers for their attendance and the detailed discussion and welcomed the progress that has been made to establish the Health and Well Being Boards across the Tees Valley.

RESOLVED – (a) That the report and discussion be noted.

(b) That the Officers be thanked for their attendance at the meeting.

(c) That the Joint Scrutiny Committee continues to monitor the establishment of the Health and Well Being Boards and their embryonic relationships with Local Authority Scrutiny Committees.