

TEES VALLEY JOINT HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

24 July 2015

The meeting commenced at 10:00 am at the Redcar & Cleveland Leisure and Community Heart

Present:

Councillor Ian Jeffrey (In the Chair) (Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council)

Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council:
Councillors: K King and R Norton

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council:
Councillors: E Cunningham, M Javed and L Hall

Hartlepool Borough Council:
Councillors: J Ainslie

Also Present: Mark Cotton, North East Ambulance Service

Officers: Lucy Donaghue, RCBC
Alison Pearson, RCBC
Peter Mennear, SBC
Joan Stevens, HBC

1. Appointment of the Chair

MOVED BY Councillor R Norton and duly seconded by Councillor J Ainslie that Councillor I Jeffrey be elected as Chair for the ensuing Municipal Year 2015/16.

The motion was put to the vote, whereupon it was:

RESOLVED that on the successful motion of Councillor R Norton and duly seconded by Councillor J Ainslie that Councillor I Jeffrey be elected as Chair for the ensuing Municipal Year 2015/16.

2. Appointment of Vice Chair

The Scrutiny Support Officer advised that the position of the Vice Chair

would need to be filled by a Member of Middlesbrough Borough Council.

The Chair advised that as there were no Members present from Middlesbrough the appointment be deferred until the next meeting of the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED that the item be deferred to the next meeting.

3. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Newall, Scott and Taylor – Darlington Borough Council.

Councillors Akers-Belcher, Cook and Martin-Wells – Hartlepool Borough Council.

Councillors Biswas, Dryden and Walker – Middlesbrough Borough Council.

4. Declarations of Interest

None.

5 Minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2015

Confirmed.

6. Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Draft Protocol

The Scrutiny Support Officer presented a report confirming the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee protocol.

The protocol was last amended by the Joint Committee at its meeting in January 2015. The key changes were to remove the requirement for a representative from each local authority to be in attendance for a quorum but to retain the requirement for six Members to be in attendance.

In addition, it was agreed that the meeting frequency would be reduced to quarterly.

The reasons for the changes were to make the most effective use of officer and Member time and increasing attendance overall as for a period of time, the Committee had suffered from a lack of attendance and had been unable to fulfil its scrutiny role effectively with a number of meetings having been inquorate.

In light of its recent review, no further changes are suggested to the protocol at this point in time:- **NOTED**

7. Monitoring of the North East Ambulance Service

Mark Cotton, the Assistant Director of Communications and Engagement from the North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) gave an update to the Joint Committee providing them with the following information:

- The findings of an internal report on how NEAS evaluated and audited the skill levels of third party operators
- Information on complaints against third party providers and monitoring arrangements
- How NEAS gained assurance about the qualification of staff provided by third parties

Ambulances were parked around the region to maximise deployment. The ambulance stations were not used as much now as they had been previously.

The Chair commented that the report reflected that the service was doing well by both regional and national standards. The Chair asked if the service received many hoax calls. Members were advised that the service did not receive many hoax calls but there was a frequent caller policy in place. The NEAS worked closely with its partners to address any issues in this regard.

The Chair commented that ambulance services could share community buildings such as the Police and Fire service buildings. There were shared services at the Redcar Fire station.

A Member asked why response times were down and what was being done to improve this. Members were advised that drops in performance figures were taken very seriously by NEAS. There had been some severe weather last winter which could have contributed to the drop in performance figures. Figures were monitored over a period of time and an analysis would take place to see where improvements could be made. The NEAS had 103% coverage in the area to accommodate any last minute shortfall.

The Chair asked if there had been any element of under financing in the service. Members were advised that historically there had been a low level of investment and there were some challenges around this. A pilot scheme was being set up to roll out the transformation of NHS services.

A Member asked to what extent Cleveland Police involved with the service. Members were advised that NEAS worked very closely with the Police. They understood that Police forces were also under a lot of pressure. A triage system was in place for patients. There was also operation ginger which involved paramedics and the Police working together in the same vehicle. This was mainly used in areas that were known to require police backup.

A Member asked if NEAS had been consulted on the rebuilding of Grangetown Fire station.

The Chair asked who made the decision of which hospital to transport patients to. Members were advised that it was the decision of the paramedic as to where the most appropriate place to treat the patient and provide definitive care was.

A Member asked about the recruitment and retention of paramedics. Members were advised that it took two years to train a paramedic. NEAS had also doubled their student intake. A number of open days had been held at universities for students. A C1/D1 driving licence was also required to drive an ambulance and it cost £1000 to take the test. NEAS paid for these tests when required. A programme had also been started to recruit paramedics from Europe.

The Chair asked how many ambulance trusts were there. Members were advised that there were 10 ambulance trusts in England and they met on a regular basis to discuss best practice and workload.

A Member asked how overtime staff undertook to cover sickness absence. Members were advised that overtime was monitored very closely as certain break times were required. Any staff sickness was now reported to a nurse rather than a line manager.

The Chair asked for further details around serious incidents. Members were advised that NEAS were very good at recording any incidents. Any serious incidents were investigated. Further details could be provided.

Decision

1. That the report be noted.
2. That further details be provided around serious incidents.

8. Work Programme

The Scrutiny Support Officer presented a report which sought Members views on the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny work programme for the forthcoming year 2015/16.

The work of the joint committee needed to be complementary to the individual health scrutiny work programmes for the constituent authorities and deal with any issues that affected the population across the wider boundaries of the Tees Valley.

Last year the Joint Committee agreed to continue to undertake regular monitoring of the North East Ambulance Service and during the course of the year and also received reports on a variety of topics including:

- Suicide prevention
- Dental Care Services
- winter planning
- short breaks for children with complex needs

For the 2015/16 work programme, suggestions received so far included:

- Continued monitoring of NEAS
- Co-commissioning of Primary Care by the CCG and NHS England
- Alcohol Misuse –oversight of the plans across Tees Valley and how coordinated the plans are across health and social care.
- Better Care Fund – how well was that working and what were the plans to extend?
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
- Tees, Esk and Wear Valley (TEWV) NHS Trust – update on the walk-in facility at Roseberry Park was requested by Committee after 12 months of operation
- TEWV CQC inspections and action plans to address areas for improvement
- Digital Healthcare – follow up on the Digital Healthcare pilot being undertaken in Hartlepool and Stockton.
- Quality Accounts

Members made a number of suggestions including:

- Mental Health Issues
- South Tees CCG Acute Services
- Dental Practice Locations
- Better Care Fund

The Chair suggested that a briefing note be circulated to the committee on each of the suggested areas so that they are able to draw up a list of priorities. A number of the suggestions were being looked at by the individual Local Authorities and would not need repeating across the Tees Valley. It was also suggested that a briefing note be provided from each Local Authority in relation to what they had covered, and what they would be looking at in the next year.

Decision

1. That the report be noted.
2. That briefing notes be provided to the Joint Committee Members on each of the suggested topics so a priority list can be established.
3. That a briefing note be provided by each Local Authority in relation to what they had covered in respect of the above suggestions.

9. Future Meeting Arrangements

The Scrutiny Support Officer presented a report seeking approval of the future meeting dates for the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee for the forthcoming year 2015/16.

The proposed meeting dates for 2015/16 municipal year were:

- 14 October 2015
- 21 January 2016
- 15 April 2016

It was suggested that all meetings start at 10:00am and would be held in the Redcar & Cleveland Leisure and Community Heart: - **NOTED.**