

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
21 February 2018

SCRUTINY OF HEALTH COMMITTEE – STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Scrutiny of Health Committee continues to have a strong focus upon developments that are taking place in mental health services and hospital-based in-patient health services.

The committee last met on 15 December 2017 and a Mid Cycle Briefing was held on 26 January 2018. A meeting of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Durham Darlington Tees and Hambleton Richmondshire and Whitby STP was held on 17 January 2018.

Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships

The Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships continue to evolve and develop. Two of the three that cover North Yorkshire were set to become Accountable Care Organisations as of April 2018 but this now in some doubt as there may be a judicial review. I have been assured that this move will help strengthen planning and commissioning across the area but I am concerned about the governance arrangements and how people will be held to account for any decisions that are made.

In terms of the development of proposals for the reconfiguration of health services:

- West Yorkshire and Harrogate (and Craven) STP is reviewing the current provision of specialist, emergency hyper-acute stroke services. Any proposed changes would be subject to formal consultation and scrutiny by the committee.
- Durham Darlington Tees and Hambleton Richmondshire and Whitby STP has reviewed its approach to service reconfiguration in the area and has abandoned the Better Health Programme two hospital scenario in favour of a three hospital scenario. The three hospitals are the James Cook, Darlington Memorial Hospital and North Tees. This then means that there is no longer any direct competition between North Tees and Darlington Memorial Hospital, which is good news for the people of North Yorkshire.
- Humber Coast and Vale STP is not planning any significant transformational changes at this stage. The focus is upon developing the partnership that will drive health service developments and identifying localities within the STP footprint that make sense.

Mental health services

The committee continues to scrutinise proposals for the reconfiguration of mental health services in the county. The current focus is upon the pause in the development of a new mental health in-patient facility at Cardale Park in Harrogate, scrutinising the outcome of recent public engagement and the development of formal consultation proposals.

Whilst it is accepted that only a small number of people need specialist, intensive mental health care and treatment as an in-patient in a mental health hospital, we need to ensure that such provision is accessible.

I am concerned that changes to mental health services are being made in a disjointed way as individual Clinical Commissioning Groups make decisions in isolation. I am also concerned that the full impact of changes upon social care and carers is not being accounted for.

The committee is going to hold an internal workshop on 23 February 2018 to look in-depth at what sort of services could be expected to be in place in a county like North Yorkshire.

Notice of Motion

A Notice of Motion was put before County Council on 8 November 2017 by Cllr John Blackie and supported by Cllr Geoff Webber, regarding mental health in-patient services in Northallerton and Harrogate. The County Council decided that the motion was to be considered by the Scrutiny of Health Committee and those Area Committees directly affected (Harrogate, Hambleton and Richmondshire).

The Scrutiny of Health Committee met on 15 December 2017 and discussed the Notice of Motion, taking into account the views of the Area Committees and a statement by Cllr Geoff Webber. The recommendation of the committee will go the Executive on 20 February 2018.

A full statutory consultation will have to take place with regard to Harrogate prior to any service changes. It is expected that this will take place in the autumn.

Friarage Hospital, Northallerton

A shortage in Consultant Anaesthetists and A&E doctors has prompted a review of the types of physical health services that can safely and efficiently be delivered at the Friarage. Public engagement was completed on 20 December 2018 and the reports of the Royal College of Anaesthesia and the Royal College of Emergency Medicine report have been received. The next step is for consultation proposals to be developed.

We were expecting a consultation to be launched in February 2018 but this has now been delayed until May 2018.

For any members who may have concerns about the future of the Friarage Hospital, it is worth considering the large amount of investment that is going into the site, the development of new specialist services there and the important role that it has to play in working in partnership with the James Cook and the Darlington Memorial Hospital.

Whitby Hospital

The planned re-development of the Whitby Hospital has experienced a number of challenges in recent months, including: York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust pulling out of the existing contract to provide outpatient services as of May 2018; issues around the charging of VAT; and difficulties in accessing the necessary capital funding. I have been assured that these obstacles will be overcome and that

it is anticipated that work can commence in late 2018 and that it will take approximately 50 weeks to complete. I will keep this situation under close scrutiny.

Community Hospitals

Following a period of public engagement on the future of the Castleberg Hospital in Settle, a formal consultation is now underway and due to close on 27 February 2018. The outcome of that consultation will be scrutinised at the next Scrutiny of Health committee meeting in March 2018.

In previous Statements to Council, I have raised my concerns about the future of some of the services currently provided by the smaller, community hospitals in the county, such as Ripon Community Hospital, Malton Community Hospital and Selby War Memorial Hospital. These concerns remain.

Joint scrutiny of health and social care

Since my last statement, the joint scrutiny of health and social care workforce planning has been completed and recommendations made. I have referred these recommendations, on behalf of the committee, to the Secretary of State for Health, the Chair of the Commons Select Committee on Health, the Shadow Secretary of State for Health, and North Yorkshire's MPs. I await their response.

NHS dentistry

The committee will be scrutinising the NHS England (Yorkshire and Humber) approach to the commissioning of NHS dental treatment in the county. This has been prompted by the closure of NHS dental practices and the withdrawal of NHS treatment in Craven, Harrogate and Richmondshire.

Congenital Heart Disease Services for Adults and Children

In January 2018 I went to the last meeting of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Yorkshire and Humber), which had been scrutinising NHS England proposals for the centralisation of surgery for congenital heart disease. The proposals had placed services in Leeds at risk. The committee made an enormous effort over a 6 year period to challenge the assumptions made and the business case put forward and was successful in getting NHS England to review plans. This means that surgery for congenital heart disease will continue in both Leeds and Newcastle. This will be a real benefit to the people of Yorkshire and also shows the impact that scrutiny can make.

Cllr Jim Clark
Chairman
Scrutiny of Health Committee
5 February 2018