

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

22 July 2015

SCRUTINY OF HEALTH COMMITTEE – STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The main areas of involvement of the Scrutiny of Health Committee and developments in the NHS impacting on our work since my last report are summarised below.

Hyper-Acute Stroke Services

At our meeting on 12 June 2015 we considered reports on changes to hyper-acute Stroke Services at Airedale and Scarborough Hospitals. Both units are struggling to recruit new stroke consultants to replace those coming up to retirement at a time when there is a national shortage of stroke consultants. Each unit deals with approximately 350 confirmed stroke cases per annum while national guidance indicates that better clinical outcomes are achieved by units dealing with more than 600 strokes per annum.

In the case of Airedale up until recently the staffing shortages have been overcome by the use of locums but now two of the three have given notice – with one having left already and the other to leave at the end of July. Consequently the Airedale, Wharfedale and Craven Clinical Commissioning Group (AWCCCG) attended the committee to seek our views on their intention, from October, to move hyper-acute stroke services to Bradford Hospital. Patients from the Airedale area would be cared for in the first 72 hours following their stroke at Bradford Hospital and then transferred to acute stroke unit at Airedale Hospital for their on-going care by a multi-disciplinary stroke team.

In view of the situation locally we agreed a formal consultation would be inappropriate as there was not a range of options on which a consultation could be launched and we raised no objections to the planned changes. We are working closely with Bradford Council's Scrutiny of Health Committee on this matter, who reached the same conclusions as we did. We will be working with that committee to monitor the new arrangements.

In the case of the Scarborough we were being consulted on plans to introduce temporary arrangements under which most patients would receive hyper-acute stroke care at York Hospital rather than Scarborough Hospital. Patients who are within an appropriate distance of Scarborough Hospital would continue to be taken there for assessment and, if stroke is confirmed, given clot busting drugs before being transferred to York. Whilst we accepted the logic behind this aspect of the changes, we were concerned by what was the definition of an appropriate distance from Scarborough Hospital and whether this could lead to confusion for ambulance crews and for carers and relatives accompanying people who they suspect may have had a stroke.

We wrote to the Scarborough and Ryedale CCG setting out a number of concerns and have received additional assurances that the proposed arrangements are safe. We will ensure that the CCG and the trust are working towards a long term solution.

Community and out of hours health services in the Whitby area

The Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group have led an extensive procurement process to appoint a new provider of community and out of hours services for Whitby and the surrounding area. Virgin Care was selected as the preferred bidder in March 2015, with a contract start date of Wednesday, 1 July 2015.

The CCG announced on 30 June 2015 that Virgin Care and the incumbent provider, York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (YTHFT), have been unable to complete the necessary procedures to handover on the agreed date.

We have received an assurance from the CCG that there will be no interruptions to services received by local patients as the YTHFT have agreed to carry on providing the services to allow time to get the details finalised and Primecare have agreed to continue to provide the Out of Hours service.

Urgent meetings are taking place with Virgin Care to agree next steps.

I will provide a verbal update to County Council on any additional news.

Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspections

The CQC has recently published the results of its inspection of the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys (TEWV) NHS Foundation Trust and the South Tees Hospitals NHS FT. Their overall ratings were "Good" and "Requires Improvement" respectively. The TEWV Trust, whilst being rated as Good, one or two aspects of the services it provides were identified as in need of improvement. We will receive presentations from both trusts on their improvement plans at our meeting in September.

Members will recall that at County Council in February I reported the CQC had published the results of its inspection of the Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (LYPFT). The overall rating was the Trust "requires improvement". The majority of the concerns raised by the CQC related to services in York and North Yorkshire, particularly older people's inpatient care which was rated inadequate. The LYPFT has not been awarded the contract for mental health and learning disabilities from 1 October 2015 and the Vale of York CCG has appointed the TEWV FT. At the September meeting the Committee will also hear how that trust is intending to improve services.

The results of the Inspections of Yorkshire Ambulance Service and York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust are awaited.

On a positive note the Reeth Medical Centre has been rated as "Outstanding" by the CQC following the inspection carried out in May 2015. This is the first time the grade has been awarded in Yorkshire and Humberside and places the practice in the top 3% nationally. We congratulate the practice on this achievement.

Urgent Care Services in Malton and Scarborough

The new urgent care centres based in Scarborough and Malton Hospitals are provided by Northern Doctors Urgent Care which is part of the Vocare Group. Both services went live from 1 April 2015.

Figures released from Scarborough and Ryedale CCG show that over 6,000 patients accessed the new urgent care service during its first two months of operation in April and May. For patients who had been referred to the centres via NHS 111, waiting times were less than 40 minutes.

GP Commissioning of Primary Care

CCGs have been given the opportunity to take on the commissioning of primary care with effect from 1 April 2015.

There are three primary care co-commissioning models CCGs could take forward:

- Level 1. Greater involvement in primary care decision making
- Level 2. Joint decision making
- Level 3. Delegated commissioning arrangements

Across North Yorkshire the picture is:

Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)	Level
Harrogate & Rural District	Level 3 - Delegated commissioning
Scarborough & Ryedale	Level 3 - Delegated commissioning
Vale of York	Level 3 - Delegated commissioning
Hambleton, Richmondshire & Whitby	Level 2 - Joint decision making
Airedale, Wharfedale and Craven	Level 1 - Greater involvement in primary care decision making

Commissioning primary care services at level 3 includes contractual GP performance management, budget management and complaints management.

The Committee has raised concerns about potential conflict of interest issues raised by this initiative. GPs who are private companies and members of the CCG will, in effect, be commissioning work from themselves at a local level. In addition most individual GPs are now part of federations which will facilitate them being part of bids for contracts covering larger geographical areas.

Over the coming weeks I am planning to meet each of the CCGs at Commissioning Levels 2 and 3 to seek assurance that robust controls are introduced.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

The Committee has been monitoring developments in CAMHS following national announcements last year that children's mental health services in England were not fit for purpose.

In April the Department of Health published *Future in Mind - Promoting, protecting and improving our children and young people's mental health and wellbeing*. This looked at existing services under broad themes:

- ❖ Promoting resilience, prevention and early intervention
- ❖ Improving access to effective support – a system without tiers
- ❖ Care for the most vulnerable
- ❖ Accountability and transparency
- ❖ Developing the workforce

We are aware that there is a good deal of work taking place locally to improve mental health services. For instance, the North Yorkshire Children's Trust has published its Children and Young People's Emotional and Mental Health Strategy 2014-17.

We are working closely with Healthwatch and the NHS locally with a view to identifying how the Committee could contribute towards improving this service.

Fracking

The Ryedale Area Committee, at its meeting on 10 June 2015, considered the Petition opposing Fracking and all other forms of unconventional fossil fuel extraction in North Yorkshire. The Area Committee recommended that further investigation is commissioned into the implications of fracking by the Transport and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and recommended to the Executive:

“That the Executive consider taking the action the petition requests [as per option (i) in the petition report] after hearing the views of the Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and the Scrutiny of Health Committee [as per option (iii) in the petition report].”

The Executive at its meeting on 7 July 2015 supported this approach.

The Scrutiny of Health Committee will be investigating the procedure under which a Health Impact Assessment is carried out. Our understanding is that it will be undertaken by Public Health England.

NHS Dental Services in Hawes, Leyburn, and Bedale

Leyburn, Bedale and Hawes residents are currently provided with dental services by Alpha Group, a private firm that also treats NHS patients. It has practices at Mawson House, Bedale; Brentwood Lodge, Leyburn; and on Fridays at the Health Centre, Hawes.

The service at Brentwood Lodge in Leyburn is to close to make way for a new extra care housing and affordable housing development.

NHS England's Yorkshire and Humber area team have assured us that work is taking place to ensure access across the area is maintained and representatives will be attending our meeting in September to report on progress.

National Review of Congenital Heart Disease (Adults & Children)

The consultation on draft standards and service specifications for patients with congenital heart disease, took place over the autumn and closed in December 2014, and resulted in 459 responses from right across the country.

NHS England is looking at the responses to decide if any alterations need to be made to the standards and specifications as a result. NHS England's board is expected to consider the review's recommendations on 23 July 2015.

I will update County Council verbally on any significant developments. I suspect we will not see anything different until the CCGs and acute trusts start to apply the standards. Proposals to reconfigure services will then follow.

County Councillor Jim Clark
Chairman: North Yorkshire County Council Scrutiny of Health Committee

July 2015