

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

24 February 2016

SCRUTINY OF HEALTH COMMITTEE – STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The main topics I would like to highlight to this meeting of County Council are:

NHS Place Based Planning and its Implications for North Yorkshire

On 22 December 2015 the NHS published its Planning Guidance - 2016/17 to 2020/21. A key element of the Guidance is for every health and care system to produce a Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) and a complementary one year Operational Plan for 2016/17. The NHS is calling the new process "Place Based Planning".

STPs are about the pursuit of three aims set out in the NHS Five Year Forward View published on 23 October 2014 - better health, transformed quality of care delivery and sustainable finances.

The STPs will become the single application and approval process for being accepted onto programmes with transformational funding for 2017/18 onwards.

The STP will involve:

- a) local leaders coming together as a team;
- b) developing a shared vision with the local community, which also involves local government as appropriate;
- c) programming a coherent set of activities to make it happen;
- d) execution against plan; and
- e) learning and adapting."

Each STP will cover the period between October 2016 and March 2021, and will be subject to formal assessment in July 2016 following submission in June 2016.

NHS England (Yorkshire and the Humber) is recommending the main five Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) covering North Yorkshire to join STPs largely outwith North Yorkshire:

- Harrogate and Rural District CCG and the Airedale, Wharfedale and Craven CCG – with West Yorkshire
- Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby CCG - with Durham and Tees
- Scarborough and Ryedale CCG and the Vale of York CCG - with Hull, NE Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and East Riding

This footprint is heavily influenced by the geographical location of the acute hospital trusts and the networks to which they belong for specialist services.

The Operational Plans must cover immediate measures to reconcile finance, activity and capacity and contributions towards efficiency savings. They must also address a range of "must dos" which include developing a high quality and agreed STP and ensuring the health care system is on track against a range of national standards, such as waiting times in A&E ambulance waiting times and waiting for cancer treatment.

“As a truly place-based plan, the STPs must cover all areas of CCG and NHS England commissioned activity including: (i) specialised services, where the planning will be led from the 10 collaborative commissioning hubs; and (ii) primary medical care, and do so from a local CCG perspective, irrespective of delegation arrangements. The STP must also cover better integration with local authority services, including, but not limited to, prevention and social care, reflecting local agreed health and wellbeing strategies.”

My concern is that there will not be one STP covering the whole of North Yorkshire and that the STPs which do cover North Yorkshire may be unduly influenced by the challenges faced in providing healthcare in the urban areas of Teesside, Leeds, Bradford and Hull. The challenges in these areas are entirely different to those of providing services to the rural and remote communities of North Yorkshire where we have a reliance on medium sized district general hospitals, a history of the NHS financial deficits, low local government funding settlements and an under investment in community health services.

Developments at the Lambert Hospital, Thirsk

Since my report to County Council in November 2015 I am disappointed to report that at our mid cycle briefing in December we heard that despite extensive efforts to recruit staff the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust had still not been successful and the situation remained unchanged.

I raised the issue again at the meeting of the Governing Body of the Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby CCG on Thursday 28 January 2016. The Trust has still been unable to recruit suitable staff to reopen the Hospital and the CCG is now exploring alternative arrangements including providing beds in local nursing homes for people requiring end of life care.

I fear the future of the Lambert Hospital is now looking increasingly uncertain.

Short Stay Paediatric Assessment Unit (SSPAU), Friarage Hospital, Northallerton

At our mid cycle briefing in December we heard that the SSPAU is working well although the number of patients is very low when considering workload per day for a consultant paediatrician and 2 staff nurses.

The Governing Body of the CCG at its meeting on 28 January 2016 accepted the recommendations from the Trust that the SSPAU should operate a 10 hour day service 9.00am to 7.00pm Monday to Friday but will not be open during weekends.

The Scrutiny of Health Committee has had a long standing involvement in these developments and has been kept fully briefed by both the CCG and the Trust. As mentioned above I attended the meeting of the Governing Body and the CCG will be writing to me to seek the Committee's views on the proposals, including how they will be engaging with patients locally. Our next meeting is not until 22 April so I will consult with the group spokespersons in order to respond on behalf of the Committee.

Fracking

Our joint meeting with the Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Friday 22 January 2016 went very well.

The purpose of the meeting was to consider the broad strategic issues around fracking with a view to influencing the development of the Minerals & Waste Plan. A key aspect will be to assess the extent to which the Plan is “future proof” should there be a proliferation of wells across the County.

There was constructive involvement from members of the public. We received a number of informative responses from a range of agencies involved in the regulation of Fracking in response to lines of enquiry set out in our report.

In consultation with group spokesperson from each committee, Councillor Backhouse and I are working toward producing a report which summarises our findings for submission to the Executive and to fit in with the planned production of the Plan which is likely to be early this summer.

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

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