

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**13 November 2019****SCRUTINY OF HEALTH COMMITTEE – STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN**

The Scrutiny of Health Committee has a responsibility to review any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services in the County. A key part of that responsibility is requiring NHS bodies to consult health scrutiny on proposals for substantial developments or variations to the local health service provision. One of the powers that the committee has is, in specific circumstances, to refer contested proposals for change to the Secretary of State for Health.

The Scrutiny of Health Committee formally met on 13 September 2019. The agenda for the meeting was very full and the meeting itself was well attended by members of the public, commissioners and providers. This reflects both the pace of change within the NHS locally and the concerns that this raises amongst the public.

At that meeting, the following changes to NHS services used by the people of North Yorkshire were scrutinised.

The Friarage hospital, Northallerton

The formal public consultation on proposed changes to urgent and critical care services provided at the Friarage Hospital in Northallerton was launched on 13 September 2019 and will run to 6 December 2019. The proposals that are being consulted upon are: 1) a 24 hour, 7 days a week Urgent Treatment Centre for adults and children with minor injuries and minor illnesses; or 2) a 16 hour, 7 days a week Urgent Treatment Centre for adults and children with minor injuries and minor illnesses. The option of returning to the position prior to 27 March 2019, when there had been an Accident and Emergency Department in place, was not included in the consultation. This was because the shortages of key staff, such as in Anaesthesia, had not been resolved and therefore clinical advice was that an Accident and Emergency Department could not be run safely.

The Friarage Hospital serves a population of about 100,000 people over a large and rural area. It works closely with the James Cook hospital in Middlesbrough and the Darlington Memorial Hospital. Consultation events are planned across the patch and I would encourage members to attend and also help publicise the consultation events and the other routes by which people can express their views (see - <https://www.southtees.nhs.uk/friarage/>). It is important that all those people who are potentially affected by these proposed changes are able to have their voice heard.

The Scrutiny of Health Committee will meet on 13 December 2019 to consider the progress with the consultation and any early findings and then again on 13 March 2020 to scrutinise the final analysis of the outcome of the consultation.

Mental Health service provision for the population of North Yorkshire – overview of changes to services in Northallerton, Harrogate, York and Selby

The committee has been scrutinising proposed and actual changes to the provision of mental health services in the county for the past 18 months. These changes have included: the closure of the mental health in-patient wards at the Friarage Hospital in Northallerton; the decision not to build a new mental health in-patient unit at Cardale Park in Harrogate; the proposed closure of the mental health in-patient wards at Harrogate Hospital; the building a new mental health in-patient hospital in York; the

development of enhanced community treatment and intervention services; and the building of new mental health community hubs in Northallerton and Selby. The theme that runs through all of these changes is moving away from in-patient treatment to community-based treatment (but with in-patient beds available where required). Community services are to be enhanced by funding released from in-patient facilities.

The challenge has been to maintain an aerial view of the changes and ensure that the committee is able to scrutinise the mental health treatment system as whole rather than respond to individual services changes in a reactive manner. Whilst the committee is broadly supportive of the move of emphasis from in-patient treatment to enhanced community treatment, we still need to find the right balance between in-patient beds and community resources. There will always be some people for whom in-patient treatment is the only safe and effective response to their needs.

Scarborough East Coast Review - Update on progress with the review of services and any proposed changes

The committee received an update on the progress being made with the East Coast Review. This review seeks to address some of the issues facing health services on the east coast, including: an ageing population and higher levels of deprivation; NHS funding criteria that do not take into account the specific needs of the Scarborough population; and persistent shortages of key medical personnel in the area. The committee received a categorical assurance from the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) that it recognised the continuing need for a 24 hour, 7 days a week Accident and Emergency department at Scarborough Hospital.

The review is being undertaken by McKinsey and Co, management consultants, upon the basis that they will provide an independent view.

The committee will receive more details of the progress that has been made with the review at the next public meeting on 13 December 2019. Members of the Scarborough and Whitby Area Constituency Committee have been invited to attend. There will be significant interest in understanding how Scarborough Hospital fits with the other parts of the health and social care system on the East Coast and whether any services that are currently at Scarborough will be moved or centralised elsewhere.

Mid Cycle Briefing

A Mid Cycle Briefing of the committee was to be held on 1 November 2019. At that meeting the following changes to health and social care commissioning and service delivery were to be discussed, with a view to better understanding which elements merited more formal scrutiny at a public meeting of the committee:

- Acute Provider Collaboration in West Yorkshire and what this means for services provided at Harrogate District Hospital and other hospitals that are used by the population of North Yorkshire
- The impact of funding reductions upon the Council's Public Health function and the services that they either commission or provide
- Changes to the repeat prescription process intended to reduce wasted medicines but which risk having an adverse impact upon some patients.

The former Lambert Hospital site in Thirsk

The former Lambert Hospital site in Thirsk has now been donated to a hospice provider, Herriot Hospice Homecare, for conversion into an end-of-life care facility. The re-opening of the former Lambert Hospital site for health and social care use is very welcome.

Integrated Care Systems

Finally, the work being done through the Integrated Care Systems (ICS) of which North Yorkshire is a member is progressing. At the same time as ICSs emerge, there has been a consolidation of the local CCGs in North Yorkshire, which we have broadly welcomed. Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny arrangements are either in place or are being put in place. Against this complex background of organisational change, the Scrutiny of Health Committee will look to scrutinise the plans of the ICSs in greater depth over the next six months.

County Councillor John Ennis
Chairman, Scrutiny of Health Committee
21 October 2019