NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

SCRUTINY OF HEALTH COMMITTEE

22 January 2010

Work Programme

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an opportunity for Members to review the Scrutiny of Health Committee's (SoHC's) work programme taking into account current areas of involvement and decisions taken in respect of earlier agenda items.

Remit of the Committee

2. The role of the SoHC is to review any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services in the County, including Ambulance Trusts and the policies of the Strategic Health Authority. The SoHC plays a key role in helping the NHS to be locally accountable.

3. Broadly speaking the bulk of the Committee's work falls into the following categories:

   a) Being consulted on issues which the Committee has agreed with the NHS locally are "substantial".

   b) Contributing to the development of local healthcare policy.

   c) Responding to national consultations by the Department of Health.

Current and Emerging Areas of Work

4. Areas of work include:

   In-Depth Scrutiny Project – Stroke Awareness

   Members will recall that a task group led by County Councillor Tony Hall and comprising members from this Committee and the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee is taking this work forward.

   Following the last Committee meeting and the subsequent informal meeting with the Regional Officer of the Stroke Association the initial scoping work has now been completed.

Key issues that the task group will be examining include:

- How is stroke awareness brought to the attention of the public and how is advice made available on what they should do if a stroke is suspected?

- How is stroke awareness promoted by employers?

- What are the prompts in the triage systems used by call handlers in NHS Direct and in the Out of Hours Service to alert them to the possibility that the caller may have had a stroke?

- How do ambulance service crews assess whether or not the patient has had a stroke and how do they decide where to take the patient?

- How do staff in Accident and Emergency recognise and respond to stroke situations?

The task group is now moving into the consultation phase. Meetings have already been arranged with the 3 Cardiovascular Networks that cover North Yorkshire and with the Stroke Services Coordinator at the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust on Friday 15 January 2010 and Monday 25 January 2010 respectively.

South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust – Quality Account

A meeting has been arranged for Wednesday, 3 February 2010 at 2.00 pm in County Hall for the Committee to contribute to the Trust's Quality Account.

Strategic Reviews in the Hambleton/Richmondshire and Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale Areas

Both reviews could lead to changes which are "substantial". NHS NY&Y has already indicated that Minor Injuries Units in the Hambleton/Richmondshire area are being examined and is likely to be coming forward with proposals in the spring of this year.

Consultation Arrangements for Changes to GP Surgery Opening Hours

A long standing arrangement already exists for this Committee to be consulted by NHS NY&Y when changes to GP branch surgeries are being proposed. In view of recent developments however these arrangements are to be "refreshed".

Schedule of Committee Meetings for 2010

5. The scheduled meetings in the County Council's diary for the remainder of 2010 are:

2010

- ❖ 10.00am, Friday 9 April
- ❖ 10.00am, Friday 18 June
- ❖ 10.00am, Friday 24 September
- ❖ 10.00am, Friday 19 November

6. Venues for the meetings are to be decided.

Recommendation

7. That Members review the Committee's work programme, taking into account the outcome of discussions on previous agenda items and any other healthcare developments taking place across the County.

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Background Documents: None