

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

SCRUTINY OF HEALTH COMMITTEE

18 November 2011

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.
3. Broadly speaking the bulk of the Committee's work falls into the following categories:
 - a) being consulted on service changes which the Committee has agreed with the NHS locally are "substantial";
 - b) contributing to the development of healthcare policy at local and national levels;
 - c) contributing to the Department of Health's Quality Accounts initiative and the Care Quality Commission's process of registering NHS trusts.

Scheduled Committee Dates

4. The scheduled Committee dates during 2012 and, where possible, provisional agenda items are as follows:
 - ❖ 10.00 am on 27 January, Selby
 - Provisional agenda items:*
 - *Accident and Emergency at Pontefract Hospital*
 - ❖ 10:00 am on 20 April, venue to be confirmed
 - ❖ 10:00 am on 1 June, venue to be confirmed
 - ❖ 10:00 am on 7 September, venue to be confirmed
 - ❖ 10:00 am on 9 November, venue to be confirmed

On-Going and Emerging Areas of Work

5. The main areas of work are highlighted below:

North Yorkshire Review of Health Services 2011

Implementation of the proposals in the Review report will provide the backdrop to much of the Committee's work over the next two years.

Inpatient and Community Older People's Mental Health in Craven

The Bradford District Care Trust will shortly be launching a formal consultation on proposals for the future provision of Inpatient and Community Older People's Mental Health (OPMH) services which will affect residents in the Craven area.

Children's Cardiac Surgery

Your Chairman continues to represent the NYSoHC on the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Scrutiny of Health Committee which along with other regional scrutiny committees across the country is being consulted formally on the proposals. Members will recall that County Councillor Jim Clark, Chairman, set out this Committee's response to the consultation in a letter to the Director - Yorkshire & the Humber Specialised Commissioning Group on 16 June 2011.

The Royal Brompton Hospital in London has won its High Court bid for a judicial review into the decision to close its children's heart surgery unit. The hospital challenged the way the consultation was carried out by NHS bosses, who now plan to appeal.

If the Royal Brompton ruling is upheld, the wider consultation will almost certainly have to be carried out again.

This court bid represented the first time that one NHS organisation has taken legal action against another.

Quality Accounts

A number of Trusts have indicated that they would welcome the Committee's input to their QA during the year rather than just at the end of the process.

NHS North Yorkshire and York's Policy on Individual Funding Requests

Certain Members have queried how NHS NY&Y decides which services it will and will not fund and how it deals with requests from a GP or an acute trust for an individual to receive a health care intervention which is not routinely funded.

NHS NY&Y have indicated that they would welcome an opportunity to brief the Committee on these issues.

Access to Health Care in Ryedale

A report recently published by Ryedale Voluntary Action and Ryedale Community Transport concluded that "There is without doubt an urgent need to improve transport to health appointments in this rural area. Whilst the elderly

population is managing to attend appointments, their experience could be improved considerably”.

One of the recommendations in the report was that your Scrutiny Support Officer be made aware of the report so that it could be brought the attention of this Committee.

At this stage it is unclear as to how the Committee could help toward improving transport to health care appointments in Ryedale. However it is suggested that a task group comprising perhaps 3 or 4 members be set up to consider the extent to which the Committee could help to take forward this work and to report back to the Committee in January 2012 accordingly.

Recommendation

6. That Members review the Committee’s work programme, taking into account issues highlighted in this report, the outcome of discussions on previous agenda items and any other healthcare developments taking place across the County.
7. Members agree to set up a task group and its composition to take forward the preliminary work on access to health care in Ryedale discussed above.

Bryon Hunter
Scrutiny Team Leader

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NORTHALLERTON

9 November 2011

Background Documents: None