

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

SCRUTINY OF HEALTH COMMITTEE

7 September 2012

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.
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 for the rest of this year and into 2013 are as follows:

2012

- ❖ 10:00 am, Friday 9 November, venue to be confirmed

2013

- ❖ 10.00am, Friday 18 January, venue to be confirmed.
- ❖ 10.00am, Friday 5 April, venue to be confirmed.

On-Going and Emerging Areas of Work

5. The Committee's main areas of involvement are:
 - a) Children's and Maternity Services at the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton
It is likely that a 3 month formal consultation will be launched in October 2012.
 - b) Formal Consultation - Mental Health Services - Alexander House, Knaresborough
Discussions are now underway between the Harrogate and Rural District Clinical Commissioning Group and the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust. A formal consultation with service users, their families and stakeholders will commence shortly.
 - c) National Review of Children's Cardiac Surgery
On 4 July 2012 the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts, which has been undertaking the review, announced proposals under which the Leeds unit would

close and networks of congenital cardiac services would be established around the following designated surgical centres:

- Freeman Hospital, Newcastle
- Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool
- Birmingham Children's Hospital
- Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
- Southampton General Hospital
- Great Ormond Street Hospital, London
- Evelina Children's Hospital (Guys and St. Thomas'), London

This was presented as Option B in the original consultation document, although the two London centres are now explicit.

Your Chairman, County Councillor Jim Clark continues to represent the Scrutiny of Health Committee on the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Joint Scrutiny of Health Committee, which along with other regional scrutiny committees across the country was consulted formally on the proposals.

The Joint Scrutiny Committee met on 24 July 2012 to consider the proposals, in particular, their impact on the Leeds General Infirmary. The Joint Committee resolved to refer the proposals to the Secretary of State. Its next meeting is expected to be in September when the report to the will be signed off formally. It should be noted that the Joint Scrutiny Committee had already referred this matter to the Secretary of State on the grounds of a flawed consultation process.

A particular concern which the Joint Scrutiny Committee has consistently expressed is that the NHS will shortly be launching a consultation on the future of adult cardiac surgery across the country. The Joint Scrutiny Committee feels strongly that children's and adult's cardiac surgery should be looked at together.

d) Adults living with congenital heart disease

It is expected that a formal consultation on adult's cardiac surgery, similar to the way in which the consultation on children's cardiac surgery was managed will eventually be launched by a Joint Committee of PCTs. If so, at that stage it is likely that a Y&H Joint Scrutiny Committee will be established.

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.

Bryon Hunter
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29 August 2012

Background Documents: None