

## Health Scrutiny Chair's report to full Council 16 April 2014

Representatives from the UHNS and Healthcare at Home Ltd attended the meeting to inform the committee and answer questions about a new initiative launched on January 20 to give patients the option to complete their housing treatment in their own home, receiving care from nursing and therapy staff under the guidance of a UHNS consultant. This was in response to an increase in the number of emergency admissions and aim to relieve some of these on-going pressures whilst improving the experience for the patient.

The service will run for an initial three years and is expected to release capacity for up to 41 patients at any one time. It will be available to patients in General Medicine, Care of the Frail Elderly, Respiratory Medicine, Renal, Neurosciences and Trauma and Orthopaedics. Patients must fit the inclusion criteria for the speciality and be referred by the consultant.

Members were given an update on the proposal to set up a UHNS Joint Committee with other local authorities representing North Staffordshire (including invitations to Staffordshire County Council, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire Moorlands District council and Stafford District Council). This was in response to the concerns of the impact around the future of the Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust and the impact of these proposals on North Staffordshire health provision. Letters were sent to the Leaders of the these authorities and Stoke-on-Trent and Stafford expressed an interest, whilst Staffordshire Moorlands and Staffordshire County Council declined. Letters have now been sent out to the appropriate chairs to arrange a meeting to discuss the role of such a committee.

Members were updated on the review of the Health scrutiny Committee by the Transformation and resources Overview and scrutiny Committee. The recommendations of this committee to be referred to Full Council were:

- That the Health scrutiny Committee expands its remit to include health improvement and alcohol and drug issues with new terms of reference agreed which should not contradict the Joint Code of Working with the County Council
- That the membership of the committee is extended to 11 members and that a vice chair is appointed.
- That the Staffordshire county Council is notified of the new arrangements
- That the committee is renamed the "Health and Well-Being Scrutiny Committee"

Cllr John Williams attended the meeting to answer questions related to health in his capacity as Portfolio Holder for Planning and Assets. The main issue was around how planning can have an impact on the health of Newcastle residents, but improvements were constrained by legislation.

A request was made by the County Council representative to initiate a piece of work in relation to community based health services in Newcastle-under-Lyme. Members were in full agreement and it was recommended members meet to discuss in detail this issue and develop a work plan and include priorities.

Cllr. Colin Eastwood

Chair of Health Scrutiny committee