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Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee - 04/06/14

HEALTH AND WELLBEING TASK AND FINISH GROUP

Wednesday, 4th June, 2014

Present:- Councillor Colin Eastwood – in the Chair

Councillors Mrs Johnson and Loades

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor D Becket, Councillor Mrs Simpson, Councillor Mrs Hailstones and Councillor J Taylor

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declaration of interest

3. **COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES WITHIN NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME**

The Chair welcomed Elizabeth Jarrett from Healthwatch, Staffordshire to the meeting.

The Chair advised that concerns had been raised at county level of the failings of the community health services within Newcastle-under-Lyme and the impact on A&E and asked what work, as a service, Healthwatch provided within Newcastle-under-Lyme in relation to community health services, with particular reference to reducing unnecessary attendances at A&E.

Based on the feedback database, access to GP services is a key issue for residents in Newcastle-under-Lyme. This is relevant to the configuration of community services because the GP can act as a gatekeeper to community services and also due to the lack of timely access to GP appointments can add additional pressure to GP services.

There was a need to identify where the service was failing

A Member advised he had been reassured at County level that the 111 service was running smoothly.

Elizabeth Jarrett reported Healthwatch is currently running a project on GP access within North Staffordshire and would provide an update at the Health and Well Being Scrutiny Committee meeting on Wednesday 9 July 2014.

It was felt Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Groups were not working together to prompt what is an agreed system and it would be more constructive to have an agreement in place between the two Clinical Commissioning Groups.

RECOMMENDATION:-

To invite the Clinical Accountable Body and the Clinical Chair of both Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Groups to the Health and Well Being

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Scrutiny Committee on Wednesday 9 July 2014 at 7.00pm, Committee Room 1 to discuss the following:-

- (a) On-going failings of the community health service and the three top quality issues required to address in GP practices.
- (b) To seek advice on the urgent care strategy currently being produced.

The invitation was extended for a representative of Healthwatch, Staffordshire to attend to provide an update on the GP access project within North Staffordshire.

COUNCILLOR COLIN EASTWOOD
Chair