

## **Health and Wellbeing Committee Meeting 8 June 2015**

The meeting began with a half hour presentation by Nicholas Pountney, Scrutiny and Support Officer for Staffordshire CC. He gave an overview of scrutinising health organisations in Staffordshire with its aim of acting as a lever to improve the health of local people, addressing health inequalities and securing continuous improvement of health services that impact upon health. Whilst the County is the lead authority, the district has an important role scrutinising health organisations on local issues impacting on the residents of Newcastle.

The committee was given a presentation by Marcus Warne, Chief Operating Officer for the North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (NSCCG), on Promoting Independence, Choice and Dignity: A New Model of Care in North Staffordshire. This is a joint venture by the NSCCG and the Stoke-on-Trent CCG who are considering commissioning community based services for patients who were currently admitted to hospital. The proposal was for more community based support for individuals in their own home or closer to home. The vision was to develop a 'step down' model of care which saw the patient's journey from the point of admission to discharge, supporting less transfers of care between multiple organisations and resulting in a reduction of delays. They would also develop a 'step up' model, which would see a diagnostic and assessment centre within the community and a continued increase in easy accessible home based services within the community, which would improve quality of care for all patients. Much of the discussion was around the future of the five community hospitals and ensuring sufficiently qualified staff were in place e.g. district nurses. No decision has been made yet, but a Step Up Step Down Steering Group had been formed of stakeholders as part of the CCG's engagement. It is intended to implement the proposals in October. Marcus agreed to forward minutes of the Steering Group meeting and return to the committee in September when it is expected a decision would have been made. Members raised importance that all proposed community based resources should be in place before its onset to ensure the safety of the Borough's residents.

Rob Foster and Sarah Moore gave an overview of the Borough's role in improving the health and wellbeing of the residents of the Borough. This included a summary of the key health issues in the Borough identified by the Staffordshire Observatory and how these are used to finance projects by a variety of groups including the Newcastle Partnership. Members were particularly concerned by the reduction of swimming in schools for a variety of reasons e.g. cost of transport and impact of national curriculum. It was agreed this needed to be pursued by the committee. Concerned was also raised about the long term provision of a leisure centre in Kidsgrove and it was said this was still the aim of the Borough and a meeting was being held on Thursday 9 July on this issue.

**Cllr. Colin Eastwood, Chair Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee**

