



COUNTY DURHAM  
A local voice for local people

## County Durham LINK Meeting/Event

<b>Date: 28<sup>th</sup> November 2011</b>
<b>Event: : Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>Number/range of attendees: 18 Councillors related NHS Services/Trusts</b>
<b>Purpose of meeting/event: Adults Wellbeing and Health</b>
<b>Record completed by: Peter Irving</b>
<p>Report from Mary Bewley on credible plan for commissioning intentions. They needed to respond to priorities in local areas. There was a CCG plan to work with partners running along with PCT plans.</p> <p>Edmund Lovell then gave an update on the Stroke service plans that were moving ahead and should be implemented before Christmas. This would be a robust 24/7 stroke service delivered from one site. Their clinical strategy would be developed with both Durham and Darlington O &amp; S.</p> <p>There was planning in place with Trade unions to maintain services over the Wednesday 24hour strike.</p> <p>There was work going on around developing an electronic clinical system for the service. This should reduce errors, losing records etc. Give easier access and better security and safety.</p> <p>Was decided that with publicity in the media stroke services would be revisited in six months.</p> <p>Safeguarding Adults, they were to train 2500. Add a website and for there to be a radio Campaign by Mind. Feedback was to be taken from victims and links formed with others. There was to be accredited training for social work staff. Expected increase in referrals with a zero tolerance approach. There was an issue with members regarding Care Homes.</p> <p><u>Update North Tees and Hartlepool Hospital.</u> No decision had been made for closure ahead of the new hospital being built at Wynyard. The Business case for the new hospital was still going through the treasury for approval.</p> <p>No budgets had been cut but had been capped. The effect of this was that expenditure rise's forced savings having to be made. This amounted to 40</p>



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million in 3 years. The process is that the government give commissioner's money to purchase services from trusts. The trusts only provide what the commissioners want to buy. There is a threat to their viability with AQP taking away services from them.

There was questions around A&E closing and why no consultation. The position was that they did not have the staff to meet requirements. They also blamed the staff approaching the press before having time to consult. The SHA and O&S Hartlepool had reviewed the situation leading a report that A&E needed to close and the letter to the Secretary of State being withdrawn. Durham O&S had no input into this. There was a need for joint planning when different Trusts make changes in informing partners.

### **Proposed changes to Hospital Orthodontic Services**

Maintaining the current model of providing services at multiple sites will be unsafe and unsustainable. Proposed a Specialist Orthodontic Centre within South Tees Hospital. Closure of facilities at DMH, BAH, UHNT and UHH. Originally 5 consultants, one left 2009, two retire 2012, one on maternity leave. Not able to recruit (usual story), as national shortage. This is supposed to make it work. The patients are central to everything they do, (If they have the staff). They said they had a fall in referrals; this could be, as they did not have enough consultants to refer to. I asked whether this extreme case, was as we heard many time before due to a lack of a national training policy and the development of Trusts. Training in all Trust for consultants seems to be left to someone else because of cost.

O&S decided they had no choice but to support the change.

### **Light Touch Review**

They were developing a decommissioning Policy. There would be consultation and engagement. Welfare would be at the heart of it, ensuring continuous care. They would consult with all agencies.

Anti Coagulant Services were undergoing a quality of service appraisal for decommissioning and APQ. A proper discussion on APQ had been promised when I had tried to raise this issue earlier (told it was later on agenda). There was promised a special meeting, as time was not there to discuss it properly.



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Actions required