

Report from Overview and Scrutiny

Lead Members: Cllr Mrs A Bradshaw; Mrs Y Clarkson
P Connolly; Mrs M Woodburn

Lead officer: T Capper

January to March 2007

Since Overview and Scrutiny last reported:

1. Waste Management – Joint Scrutiny

The Cumbria Waste Management Scrutiny Group held a meeting with the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership in Whitehaven on 17 January. This is likely to be the last formal scrutiny session of this group, though further monitoring meetings may be held in 12 months time.

The Scrutiny Group will be monitoring progress on commitments made by the CSWP in a number of important areas, including the CSWP consultation on the Waste Strategy, collection of commercial waste, projection and avoidance of LATS fines, re-cycling and re-use credits, and further development of the CSWP web site. Progress on these will be monitored in the next 12 months and further meetings of the Scrutiny Group called if necessary.

2. Enforcement

A Sub Group of Members from OSC Environmental Well Being have been working with the Portfolio Holder and the Chief Executive on options for the future of the enforcement service following the call-in in December. A report from the Sub Group making a number of recommendations has been submitted to Executive on 20 February.

3. Joint Scrutiny of the West Cumbria Strategic Partnership

The final report and recommendations of the joint scrutiny of the West Cumbria Strategic Partnership was presented to the Partnership Board meeting on 19 January by Councillor Keith Hitchen on behalf of the joint scrutiny group (Copeland/Allerdale/County). The recommendations have been accepted in full and the Partnership Board will be producing an action plan which can be monitored by the joint scrutiny group to ensure timely implementation of the agreed recommendations.

This exercise has been an excellent example of several authorities working together successfully and constructively, and producing recommendations which add value to services.

4. Western Lake District Tourism Partnership

OSC Economic received a presentation from the Western Lake District Tourism Partnership on the performance of the partnership, which included details of the holiday guide for 2007.

5. Whitehaven Regeneration Implementation Plan

OSC Economic received a presentation on the on delivery of the Whitehaven Regeneration Programme including the overall programme, various projects and timescales.

6. Procurement

The OSC PR considered a report outlining a proposed comprehensive procurement strategy for the Council for the period up to 2009. The Strategy will establish a clear link between the Council's priorities and procurement, the principles underpinning strategy, and the objectives for developing procurement within the organisation. The Strategy has been recommended by OSC PR to the Executive for approval and implementation from the 2007/8 financial year, and OSC PR have asked for further reports monitoring implementation of the Strategy after 6 months.

7. Joint Scrutiny of the CDRP

The Copeland and Allerdale scrutiny members have agreed provisionally to conduct a new tripartite joint scrutiny with the County Council of the West Cumbria Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. CDRP scrutiny is now a statutory duty of all districts under the Police and Justice Act 2006.

8. Cumbria Health and Well Being Scrutiny Committee

Clinical Assessment and Treatment Support Centres ("CATS")

The NHS is consulting on plans for a network of centres across Cumbria and Lancashire where patients being referred for certain types of surgery will be assessed instead of going to hospital out-patient clinics. Centres in Cumbria are planned for Carlisle, Ulverston and Workington. The Committee has decided to join with neighbours in Lancashire in a joint scrutiny of the proposals, and a Task Group of Committee members will examine the detailed plans for Cumbria during February.

Scrutiny of Joint Care for Older People with Complex Needs

The Task Group of Councillors has nearly completed their information gathering and has held some very interesting meetings. A second Stakeholder Conference will be held on 28 February at which all those who have contributed to the

scrutiny will be invited to contribute their views on what recommendations for change should be made. The proposed report will be put to the Committee for final approval at its next meeting on 25 April.

North West Ambulance Service

The Chief Executive of the North West Ambulance Trust met the Committee to discuss its plans for merging Ambulance Control Rooms in Cumbria and Lancashire, as well as the Trust's vision for ambulance services in Cumbria. Scrutiny of the Control Room proposals may take place jointly with other Councils depending on the outcome of discussions as to whether the Control Room proposal amounts to a "Substantial Service Change".

Health Improvement

The Committee held a workshop with partners on 21 December to look at ways to raise the profile of health improvement both in Council business and in scrutiny. Following the Workshop, the Committee will be making recommendations to Cabinet, and will be selecting at least one "Health Improvement" topic for its work programme in 2007. Additionally, a member of the Committee will be taking part in a scrutiny of Alcohol Misuse being led by the Safe and Secure Communities Scrutiny Panel.

Acute Medical Services in Morecambe Bay

The Cumbria and Lancashire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is still awaiting the Primary Care Trust response to its recommendations on Acute Medical Services in Morecambe Bay. This has been promised by the end of February, and the PCTs will meet the Joint Committee on 12 March.

Whole System Review

The Committee met Sue Page, Chief Executive of the Cumbria PCT, who gave members an update on the Whole System Review. Changes to services are now being considered looking across the whole of Cumbria, and there is likely to be a public consultation during May to July. The Committee appointed a Task Group of members to plan and lead its examination of the proposals.

Annual Health Check

In preparation for taking part in the next round of the Healthcare Commission's Annual Health Check, the Committee held a workshop with Patient Forum and NHS partners. Initial ideas for the Committee's comments were compiled and a Task Group of 3 members was set up to work these up.

Substantial Service Change

The Committee is to hold a workshop on "Substantial Service Change" on 6 March 2007, with Patient Forum and NHS partners. The aim is to improve our

local understanding on what degree of planned service change should trigger a consultation with scrutiny.

LINKs

A Local Involvement Network (LINK) is due to be established in Cumbria over the coming year, to replace Patient and Public Involvement Forums. In line with Department of Health advice, the Committee has agreed to monitor its establishment.

Future Work Programme on Health Scrutiny

In addition to current scrutiny work, the Committee has the following topics forthcoming:

- Review of the plans arising from the Whole System Review during the expected public consultation.
- A topic related to Health Improvement (detail to be determined)
- Ambulance Control Room plans
- Implementation of LINKs in Cumbria.

Additionally, members of the Committee will be contributing to the following health-related scrutiny topics:

- 2 Members of the Committee will be taking part in a scrutiny of NHS and County Council plans for respite care (short breaks) for children with disabilities, to be led by the Children and Young people Scrutiny Panel
- 2 Members of the Committee will be taking part in a scrutiny of a joint NHS and County Council strategy for adults with learning disabilities, to be led by the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel.
- A member of the Committee will be taking part in a scrutiny of alcohol misuse, to be led by the Safe and Secure Communities Scrutiny Panel

5. NDA Socio-economic policy

Members received a presentation on the socio-economic policy and expressed concern that stakeholders would have little input into any decision-making with respect to community funding.

6. Market Town Initiatives

Members received an update on Millom and Egremont Market Town Initiatives and look forward to receiving plans in the spring for how the momentum will be sustained after the funding period has finished.

7. Food Safety Service Plan

Members considered and were impressed by the plan. Members asked whether further funding would be available from the Food Standards Agency to provide free training and workplace coaching for local businesses on new food safety legislation (as detailed in the plan) and it was agreed that Members would be kept informed.

8. Draft Masterplan

Members considered and commented on the draft masterplan. The key issue for Members was transport infrastructure, on which future prosperity depended.

9. Kerbside Collection Service

Members noted the relatively smooth transfer of the service to the Council as an interim measure pending a consultant's report on the best way forward. They noted that there were some discrepancies in the number of properties receiving a kerbside collection which might impact on targets. Members are asked to contact the department with details of any properties in their wards who are not receiving a kerbside collection when other streets in the same area are.

10. West Cumbria Strategic Partnership

Members of the joint scrutiny committee have met and are in the process of agreeing a report on a review of the partnership's procedures and processes.

11. Complaints' Monitoring

Members received and noted the complaints monitoring for April-October

12. IT Survey

Members' of the IT sub group requested that a Member survey be carried out into Members' communication needs.

13. Health Scrutiny

Cumbria Health and Well-being Scrutiny Committee.

Update 3.

10 November 2006.

The Cumbria Health and Well-being Scrutiny Committee met most recently on 25 October 2006. The Cumbria and Lancashire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee also met during October.

Older People with Complex Needs

Six “focus group” sessions have now been completed with groups of front line staff and groups of users and carers, spread across the county. This is part of the Committee’s scrutiny on joint care for older people with complex needs. The Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel is also involved. The next step in the scrutiny is for the task group of councillors to meet senior managers and directors, following which members will draw conclusions. A further Stakeholder Conference will be held early in the New Year to consider what recommendations for change should be made.

North West Ambulance Service

At its meeting on 25 October, the Committee noted that the North West Ambulance Trust has agreed, following representations from the Committee, to maintain an office in Cumbria with a Head of Service for Cumbria. The Committee was very concerned that the Trust had not discussed its possible plans to merge ambulance control rooms across the North West, and sent an urgent email to the Trust stating its expectations to be consulted on any proposals. The Trust has since confirmed to the Committee that there will be a consultation (likely to take place early next year).

The Chief Executive of the North West Ambulance Trust has offered to meet the Committee to discuss the position as well as the Trust’s vision for ambulance services in Cumbria, and it was agreed to take up this offer and invite him to the Committee’s next meeting.

NHS Consultation on Acute Medical Services in Morecambe Bay

The Cumbria and Lancashire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee met the NHS on 12 October, to hear that the NHS organizations favoured the option of transferring acute medical services from Westmorland general Hospital to Lancaster and Barrow, but to provide a rehabilitation unit at Westmorland General Hospital. The NHS had not yet responded to the Committee's recommendations, and undertook to do so. They also recognized that the NHS consultation with the Committee were not complete until the Committee could look at this response – i.e. that no service changes can take place until then.

Draft Local Area Agreement

The Committee looked at the Corporate Director of Adult Social Care's response to its comments on the draft Local Area Agreement.

North Cumbria Whole System Review

The Committee asked for a letter to be sent to the Cumbria PCT asking for an update and timetable on what was happening now that the North Cumbria Whole System Review has been completed.

Mental health issues:

1. Penrith Community Beds

The Committee supported the view that the Cumbria Partnership Trust (the new name for the Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Trust) could end its arrangement to rent four community beds in Penrith, as it was now clear that they were not needed. The Committee also asked for information on residential provision for young people with mental health problems, and a letter is being sent to the Cumbria PCT.

2. Incorporation of South Cumbria services into a single Mental Health Trust for Cumbria

The Trust gave the Committee a response to all its recommendations on arrangements for a single mental health trust for Cumbria (to be called the Cumbria Partnership Trust); nearly all of the Committee's recommendation was accepted.

3. Progress Report – Modernization of mental Health and Learning Disability Services in North Cumbria

The Trust gave the Committee a progress report, highlighting the staffing arrangements and the new assessment unit for people with combined mental health and learning disability problems, which is now being built.

4. Foundation Trust Status

The Trust gave the Committee an update, and undertook to respond to each of the comments that the Committee had made.

Annual Health Check

In preparation for the next round of the Healthcare Commission's Annual Health Check, the Committee decided to hold a workshop, to include the NHS, Patient Forum contacts and voluntary bodies, to look at what initial comments should go into the next round. The workshop will take place on the afternoon of the Committee's next meeting (10 January 2007) in Barrow.

Patient and Public involvement Forum (PPIF) Contacts

The PPIFs have been restructured to match the new PCTs and NHS Trusts in Cumbria. The Committee agreed to have 3 advisers from the new Cumbria PCT PPIF, reflecting geographical coverage.

Development and Training

The Committee is to have development sessions on "Improving the health of the Community" on 21 December 2006 and "Substantial Service Change" on 6 March 2007.

The Committee's Next Meeting

The Committee will next meeting on the morning of Wednesday 10 January 2007 in the Town Hall, Barrow.

For further of health scrutiny; please contact:

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