



Cumbria Health and Well-being Scrutiny Committee.

Update 8.

7 May 2009.

This Update contains the latest news of the Cumbria Health and Well-being Scrutiny Committee's activities and work programme.

Dental Services

A Task Group of Councillors has discussed NHS Cumbria's Dental Investment Plan and made some recommendations to the NHS concerning plans for new dental practices in Cumbria.

Acute Medical Services – Morecambe Bay

A Task Group of councillors is tracking the implementation of changes to Acute Medical Services in Morecambe Bay. Particular issues include the new primary care services at Westmorland General Hospital and access for medical patients to the Lancaster Royal Infirmary. NHS Cumbria has commissioned two nationally recognised medical experts to give independent advice to the Task Group. The Task Group has recently visited the new Primary Care Assessment Service at Westmorland General Hospital.

The next meeting of the Task Group will be on 3 September 2009. The Task Group is keen to follow up matters of public interest, and individuals or organisations are welcome to contact the Scrutiny Unit.

“Closer to Home” – North Cumbria

A Task Group of councillors is tracking the implementation of the NHS Closer to Home strategy for North Cumbria.

The next meeting will be on 11 November 2009 and will look at the operation of the new step up/step down and Primary Care Assessment Services (PCAS) in North Cumbria, progress on community hospital development, communications between secondary and primary care, etc.

West Cumberland Hospital Development

A Task Group of councillors has been set up to scrutinise the new West Cumberland Hospital Development.

The next meeting of the Task Group will be on 9 July 2009, and will look at the Outline Business Case for the hospital development. Following this, the Task Group will be looking at specific aspects of public interest and welcomes views on which topics it should focus on.

Fuel Poverty

The Committee has completed its report on Fuel Poverty and made recommendations to the County Council and NHS on priorities to enhance local action on fuel poverty. The County Council has accepted these recommendations which will now be incorporated into the Council's Poverty Strategy.

General Practice in Carlisle

The Committee has made recommendations to NHS Cumbria about the development of a "super-surgery" in the northern sector of Carlisle.

The Committee has also received feedback from NHS Cumbria following its recommendations about the proposed development of a "super surgery" for the Carlisle Medical Group at Hilltop Heights. NHS Cumbria confirmed that it had implemented all the Committee's recommendations (made in September 2008) aimed at ensuring that there remains convenient access to GP services for all residents of Carlisle.

Cumbria LINK

The Committee is working closely with the new Cumbria LINK and is looking forward to an increasing role for the LINK network in feeding information and issues to scrutiny from individuals and organizations associated with the LINK. A LINK member is now working with each of the Committee's main Task Groups.

Future items on the Scrutiny Work Programme

The Committee will be holding a workshop in September to review new developments in health and plan its future work programme. The Committee is keen to hear from individuals and organizations about priorities for topics that scrutiny should be looking at. If you have any suggestions, please email the Scrutiny Unit.

The Committee's next Meeting

The Committee will next meet at 1 p.m. on Friday 3 July 2009, at the University of Cumbria's Penrith campus. Please contact the Scrutiny Unit, about any matters to be brought to the Committee's attention.

Website

Health and Well-being Scrutiny reports and recommendations, and other information can be accessed as key documents on the County Council website. Go to <http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/scrutiny/>

For further details or comments, please contact the Scrutiny Unit at scrutiny@cumbriacc.gov.uk.