

## ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2011-12

### REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

#### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 For the Committee to receive an updated work programme for 2011-12.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Committee is responsible for setting its own work programme within the following remit:

*Social Care (Adults); Welfare Rights; Relationships and scrutiny of health services; Healthy life and lifestyle choices for adults and children; Public Health; Citizenship (Adults); and External inspections (Adult Services)*

- 2.2 The work programme can be amended during the year and any Member of the Committee can add an item of business.

#### 3. Current Position

- 3.1 In addition to the items taken at the scheduled meetings the following activities have taken place since the last meeting.

##### 1. Children's Heart Services

The Scrutiny Committee has been kept informed about the ongoing the consultation on the reconfiguration of children's heart services in England.

The consultation follows the national 'Safe and sustainable review' which is proposing four options to reduce the number of hospitals providing children's heart surgery from 11 to either six or seven. No decisions about the future of any of the centres under review will be made until after the consultation. A decision on the proposals is expected in November 2011.

Overview and Scrutiny services have been given one further opportunity to comment on the proposals before a final decision is reached. The North East Regional Joint Health Scrutiny Committee has submitted a further response on behalf of all of the health scrutiny committees in the region which re-iterates the earlier submission. This was in support of Option A which would provide for seven surgical centres including the Freeman Hospital, Newcastle.

##### 2. Veterans Review

Delivery of the action plan following the Veterans Review is ongoing. All 12 local authorities in the region have submitted their first progress reports on

delivery of the recommendations. Key actions achieved by all local authorities at the early stages of delivery are, including reference to veterans in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, the identification of veterans at the point of accessing services and the establishment of champions or coordinators across the region to oversee the implementation of recommendations in each local area.

3. Any Qualified Provider (AQP)

The Committee has received a briefing on extending patient choice of provider in the South of Tyne and Wear which is intended to empower patients and carers, improve their outcomes and experience, enable service innovation and free up clinicians to drive change and improve practice.

By October 2011, NHS South of Tyne and Wear must identify three or more services to be opened up to the wider healthcare provider market to create better choice for patients. In selecting services consideration needs to be given to local priorities. Stakeholder views have been sought on which services currently offered by NHS South of Tyne and Wear should be prioritised for the AQP process and on that basis, the initial recommendations for services to be considered for procurement via this first phase of AQP are:

- Adult Hearing Services in the Community;
- Diagnostics closer to home – possibly ultrasound scans (not for pregnancy)
- Podiatry

4. **Conclusion & Recommendation**

- 4.1 That Members note the updated work programme.

5. **Background Papers**

None

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