

# Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny



## Overview and Scrutiny Committee

12<sup>th</sup> November 2012

### Briefing Note: Northamptonshire County Council's Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee

#### 1 Background

- 1.1 Councillor Danielle Stone is Northampton Borough Council's representative to Northamptonshire County Council's (NCC) Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.2 A meeting of NCC's Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee was held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2012.
- 1.3 As reported to previous meetings, the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee is responsible for scrutinising and reviewing issues and services relating to:
  - health care;
  - adult social care; and
  - adult and community learning.

#### 2 Update

- 2.1 Details of the main issues discussed at the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2012 are detailed below:

##### **NHS Corby Clinical Commissioning Group**

The Committee considered progress with the development of the Clinical Commissioning Group and received an update on:

##### **Corby Clinical Commissioning Group**

From April 2013, local doctors and other medical professionals and patients will have a much stronger say in how the NHS spends its money. Local General Practitioners (GPs) have formed Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) - the local organisations responsible

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for spending the majority of the local health budget on services from hospitals and community nurses to operations and prescriptions.

### Healthcare priorities for Corby

- To provide more services and care closer to home so patients don't need to go to hospital
- To make sure we plan services that are the best quality they can be by using the latest medical thinking and patient views
- To join up work with local partners in Corby so we respond quickly to get new services up and running by having less bureaucracy and red tape
- To talk to our patients about overall good health and healthy lifestyles so that people in Corby live longer and healthier lives.

### Bringing and keeping care closer to home

The new Urgent Care Centre at Willowbrook is due to open in late 2012 and is central to the vision for how services will be provided closer to home. The new centre will offer:

- A GP Walk In Centre (currently based at Lakeside Plus)
- A Minor Injury Unit and x-ray (currently based at the Nuffield Diagnostic Centre) with an observation area so GPs and other clinicians can monitor patients while carrying out a range of diagnostic tests
- A community-based ultrasound service and extended opening hours.

### Providing high quality services

The Commissioning Group's vision is that patients should receive the right care, in the right place, at the right time. Some of the things it plans to introduce to support this are:

- Training more GPs to manage more patients with heart conditions in the community rather than hospital
- Providing more support to home visit teams like family nurses and health visitors
- Telephoning patients to check how they are doing after surgery or specific treatments
- Offering patients the option to visit specialist local doctors to deal with particular conditions, such as our community based Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms Service

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### **Support for mental health and wellbeing**

A review of local mental health and wellbeing services has begun so that more patients can be helped. It is hoped that the following improvements will be introduced:

- More support for patients who have personal health budgets so they can make the best choices about their healthcare
- Setting up a mental health forum which has membership from both statutory, voluntary sector and patient organisations so we have a joined up approach to dealing with mental health issues in Corby
- Redesigning specialist learning disability services is being looked at as is increasing supported accommodation options for people with learning disabilities

### **Improving lifestyles in Corby**

Corby is a unique town in many ways with its green open spaces and famous community spirit. However it also has its issues and health is one of them.

Unfortunately, the health of people in Corby is generally worse than the England average, and Corby GPs and other local healthcare professionals are leading the way to change this.

NHS Corby CCG is working with interested groups in Corby on issues such as:

- Detecting cancer early and encouraging patients to take part in screening
- Lifestyle improvements

### **Local Authority Health Scrutiny- Future Proposals**

The Committee considered proposals published by the Department of Health.

### **Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Social Services**

Members asked the Cabinet Member questions about the commissioning strategy, best value and impact of service reforms.

### **Health & Social Care Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2012/13**

The Committee considered progress with the delivery of the work programme. Councillor Stone asked for two areas to be considered:-

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- The quality of care provided under the personalisation of care schemes
- A review of mental health services.

### **3 Conclusions**

- 3.1 That the update is noted.
- 3.2 That regular updates of the work of Northamptonshire County Council's Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee be provided by Councillor Danielle Stone to this Committee.
- 3.3 The next meeting of Northamptonshire County Council's Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee is scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> November 2012 – commencing at 10:00am.

Brief Author: Tracy Tiff, Overview and Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of Councillor Danielle Stone

5<sup>th</sup> October 2012