

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

AGENDA



Tuesday 12th December 2023

at 5.00 pm

**in the Council Chamber,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

MEMBERS: AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Councillors Allen, Brash, Cowie, Creevy, Groves, Hargreaves, Moore, D Nicholson, V Nicholson and Sharp

Standards Co-opted Independent Members: - Mr Martin Slimings and Ms Tracy Squires.

Standards Co-opted Parish Council Representatives: Parish Councillor Kane Forrester (Wynyard) and Parish Councillor Michael Jorgeson (Headland)

Local Police Representative

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

3. MINUTES

3.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 7th November 2023

4. STATUTORY SCRUTINY ITEMS

4.1 Derelict Land and Buildings Investigation:-

- i) Presentation (*Executive Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services and Assistant Director, Development and Growth*)
- ii) Investigation Update Report - *Statutory Scrutiny Manager (to follow)*
- iii) Survey Update – Presentation (*Scrutiny and Legal Support Officer*)

4.2 Crustacean Deaths Working Group - Verbal Update (*Councillor Creevy*)

5. STANDARDS ITEMS

5.1 Council Referral - Verbal Progress Update - *Director of Legal, Governance and Human Resources*

6. AUDIT ITEMS

No Items

7. MINUTES FROM RECENT MEETINGS FOR RECIEPT BY THE COMMITTEE

- 7.1 Health and Wellbeing Board – None.
- 7.2 Finance and Policy Committee Relating to Public Health Issues – None.
- 7.3 Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee – None.
- 7.4 Safer Hartlepool Partnership – None.
- 7.5 Tees Valley Area Integrated Care Partnership – 8th September 2023.
- 7.6 Regional Health Scrutiny – None.
- 7.7 Durham, Darlington and Teesside, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby STP Joint Health Scrutiny Committee – None.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

For information: - forthcoming meeting dates:-

Tuesday 30 January 2024, at 5.00 pm – Centre for Excellence in Creative Arts (CECA), King Oswy Drive, Hartlepool

Tuesday 27 February 2024, at 5.00 pm



AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

7 NOVEMBER 2023

The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm at the
Community Hub Central, York Road, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Jonathan Brash (In the Chair)

Councillors: Gary Allen, Brian Cowie, Rachel Creevy, Pamela Hargreaves,
David Nicholson and Cameron Sharp

Standards Co-opted Members:

Mr Martin Slimings and Tracy Squires – Independent Members
Parish Councillor Michael Jorgeson (Headland)

Also Present: Councillor Veronica Nicholson
Derek Bell, James Bromiley, Ray Martin-Wells, North Tees and
Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust
Gavin Barker, Mazars
Steve Thomas, Healthwatch

Officers: James Magog, Director of Finance, IT and Digital Services
Noel Adamson, Head of Audit and Governance
Sandra Shears, Head of Finance, Corporate and Schools
Joan Stevens, Statutory Scrutiny Manager
Gemma Jones, Scrutiny and Legal Support Officer
Denise Wimpenny, Democratic Services Team

75. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Christopher Groves and Parish Councillor Representative Kane Forrester (Wynyard)

76. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Rachel Creevy declared a personal interest as a private landlord.

77. Minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2023

Confirmed

78. North Tees and South Tees Foundation Trusts – Group Model – Verbal Update

The Chair welcomed representatives from North Tees and Hartlepool Foundation Trust, who were in attendance at the meeting to provide an update on the group model arrangements between North Tees and South Tees Foundation Trusts.

The Committee was advised that Stacey Hunter had recently been appointed to the new joint Chief Executive Officer role and whilst her employment would not formally commence until 1 February 2024, she was available on site most Fridays for meetings with immediate effect. A meeting was scheduled for the following week to discuss the principles of a partnership approach and how the group model arrangements would work.

In the discussion that followed Members commented on a number of issues arising from the update and representatives responded to queries raised. In response to clarification sought, assurances were provided that the group model proposals were not a cost saving exercise and would provide a number of benefits, details of which were provided.

Emphasis was placed upon the importance of representation from Hartlepool and a query was raised as to how the needs of Hartlepool residents would be met in terms of the decision making process to ensure involvement and influence in developing the proposals. The Chair of Governors advised that the governance arrangements would operate on a place based structure and acknowledged the importance of representation by area. The financial benefits of a group model arrangement were discussed including the success of the Urgent Care Centre in Hartlepool.

In response to clarification sought, Members were advised that whilst the proposals were not a cost cutting exercise, any savings as a result would be reinvested in patient care. The Committee reiterated the importance of Board Member expertise and the importance of representation from Hartlepool on the Project Board to ensure involvement and influence in developing the proposals.

Some concerns were expressed regarding the current financial position of North and South Tees hospitals, the building repair and maintenance costs given the current condition and the impact on Hartlepool as a result. Assurances were provided that work would be undertaken to determine

how the three sites could be used optimally and that any proposed changes in clinical service provision would be undertaken in consultation with this Committee.

In concluding the debate the Chair requested that a list of all services provided at Hartlepool Hospital be provided following the meeting.

The Chair of Governors expressed a commitment to keep the Committee updated on progress and provide a further update to a future meeting of this Committee.

Recommended

That the contents of the update and comments of Members be noted and actioned as appropriate.

79. Accessibility of Council Services in Hartlepool for those with Disabilities and Long Term Conditions – Closing the Loop *(Statutory Scrutiny Manager)*

The Statutory Scrutiny Manager introduced the report which provided Members with feedback on the recommendations from the investigation into the accessibility of Council services in Hartlepool for those with disabilities and long term conditions following consideration by Finance and Policy Committee in conjunction with a corresponding action plan, a copy of which was appended to the report.

Members together with the Healthwatch Representative, who was in attendance at the meeting, welcomed the report and the decision of the Finance and Policy Committee to consider a further report setting out the costings of the recommendations from the investigation, as detailed in the report. The Healthwatch Representative commented on the benefits of the recommendation to develop a communications campaign, the need for continuous engagement with the voluntary and community sector as well as the importance of ongoing training and the need to develop links with disabled groups. The Statutory Scrutiny Manager indicated that arrangements would be made to feedback to community groups in terms of how their input had influenced the actions.

Recommended

The Committee noted the decision of the Finance and Policy Committee on 18 September 2023 and the proposed actions detailed within the action plan.

80. Derelict Land and Buildings Investigation *(Scrutiny and Legal Support Officer)*

It was reported that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

Recommended

That this item be deferred to the next meeting.

81. Crustacean Deaths Working Group - Verbal Update

Cllr Creevy reported that information had been presented at the last meeting in relation to core samples that had been taken mainly from the Tees which showed significant levels of toxic heavy metals in the top most layers of the sediment samples, the background and timescales of which were provided.

A report had also been presented by Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), commissioned by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to find a method to quantify pyridine in animal tissue. Given these findings had questioned the Environment Agency's data, the Government now appeared to be back at the pathogen stage.

It was envisaged that the next meetings would focus on future developments, to which CEFAS, the Environment Agency, Marine Management Organisation and Mayor Houchen had been invited to attend.

Recommended

That the information given be noted.

82. Dedicated Scrutiny Budget Update *(Statutory Scrutiny Manager)*

In 2013, a budget of £5000 per year had been allocated to the Overview and Scrutiny function to provide support for the delivery of the work programme and development of the function. The Committee was advised that expenditure to date from the 2023/24 dedicated scrutiny budget as at 30 October 2023 was £512.18 with a remaining budget of £4,487.82.

Decision

The Audit and Governance Committee noted the dedicated scrutiny budget position for the 2023/24 financial year.

83. Council Referral – Verbal Progress Update *(Director of Legal, Governance and Human Resources)*

The Statutory Scrutiny Manager advised that the Director of Legal, Governance and Human Resources had confirmed that an Independent Investigating Officer was arranging interviews, an update from which would be provided in due course.

Recommended

That the update be noted.

84. Mazars Report - Follow up to Audit Completion Report *(Director of Finance, IT and Digital Services)*

A representative from Mazars was in attendance and updated the Committee on those matters that were marked as outstanding within the Audit Completion Report 2021/22 dated 14 November 2022, a copy of which was appended to the report and drew Members attention to additional issues that had arisen since that report had been presented to the Committee on 24 November 2022.

Members were referred to the key messages as set out in the report and were advised that Mazars had now completed value for money work for year ended March 2022 and had not identified any significant weaknesses and had no formal recommendations to make as a result of their work. An unqualified audit opinion, without modification, on the 2021/22 financial statements was still anticipated and would be issued when the financial statements had been approved and when the outstanding pension fund activity had been concluded.

Recommended

That the contents of the report be noted.

85. Draft Auditor's Annual Report 2021/22 - Mazars *(Director of Finance, IT and Digital Services)*

A representative from Mazars was in attendance and updated the Committee on the work Mazars had undertaken as the auditor for the Council for the year end 31 March 2022 in relation to financial statements, value for money arrangements, wider reporting responsibilities and whole of Government accounts.

Details of the key messages were included in the main body of the report, a copy of which was attached at Appendix 1. The representative advised that

it was a positive report and included an unqualified opinion on the Council's financial statements subject to finalisation of remaining issues, and stated that the work undertaken did not identify any evidence to indicate a significant weakness in the Council's arrangements in relation to improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

Recommended

That the contents of the report be noted.

86. The 2021/22 Financial Report (including the 2021/22 Statement of Accounts) *(Director of Finance, IT and Digital Services)*

The Director of Finance, IT and Digital Services reported on the arrangements for approving the Council's financial report for 2021/22 including the Statement of Accounts, a copy of which was attached at Appendix A. Members were referred to the background as set out in the report in relation to the delays in approving the accounts. As referred to in the Mazars reports, further audit activity was required in relation to the triennial revaluation of the Teesside Pension Fund and, following completion, the Council was required to issue a management letter of representation to Mazars, details of which were provided.

Members were advised that there had been one further misstatement identified since the original audit completion report had been issued in relation to errors identified by the Pension Fund Auditor, referred to earlier in the Mazar's report (Minute 83 refers).

Recommended

- (i) That the report be noted.
- (ii) That the Financial Report detailed in Appendix A be approved
- (iii) That should a material error be identified in the outstanding Pension Fund audit activity, resulting in an amendment to the Financial Report, these amendments be actioned and authority be delegated to the Director of Finance, IT and Digital Services, in consultation with the Chair of this Committee to approve the updated Statement of Accounts 2021/22.
- (iv) The Committee approved the reason outlined in paragraph 2.8 for not amending the accounts to reflect the pension misstatement and noted that the Management Letter of Representation would be issued once the audit activity on the Pension Fund had concluded.

87. Mazars Report – Audit Progress Report (*Director of Finance, IT and Digital Services*)

A representative from Mazars updated the Committee on Mazars progress in meeting their responsibilities as the Council's external auditor and highlighted key emerging issues. Details of key messages were also reported as set out in Appendix 1. It was envisaged that the full audit would be completed by end of March 2024.

Recommended

That the report be noted.

88. Treasury Management Strategy - Quarter 2 Update 2023/24 (*Director of Finance, IT and Digital Services*)

The Director of Finance, IT and Digital Services outlined the main aspects of the Treasury Management Strategy including a second quarter update of the 2023/24 Treasury Management activity. Members were advised of the economic background and outlook for interest rates as well as the Council's borrowing and investment position as at 30 September.

The Director of Finance, IT and Digital Services responded to issues raised arising from the report. Clarification was provided in relation to the impact of fluctuating interest rates on the Council's borrowing and budget position.

Recommended

That the 2023/24 Treasury Management 2nd Quarter Position as detailed in the report be noted.

89. Internal Audit Plan 2023/24 Update (*Head of Audit and Governance*)

The Head of Audit and Governance reported on progress made to date completing the Internal Audit Plan for 2023/24. Members were referred to details of audits completed together with recommendations, risks identified and action plans agreed as a result. Following a request at a previous meeting for further details of audits assessed as limited assurance, the Head of Audit and Governance provided an update on the Iclipse/Enterprise IT System and Health and Safety Audits, details of which were set out in the report.

Recommended

That the report be noted.

90. Minutes of the meeting of the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee held on 28 July 2023

Received

91. Minutes of the meeting of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership held on 20 Jun 2023

Received

92. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Chair encouraged attendance and participation by Members at the next meeting of the Working Group in relation to the derelict land and buildings investigation to be held on 21 November at 5.00 pm to which the fire and police had been invited to attend.

The next meeting would be held on 12 December 2023 at 5.00 pm.

The meeting concluded at 6.30 pm.

CHAIR

North East North Cumbria Health & Care Partnership



Tees Valley Area Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) Meeting

Meeting held on: 8th September 2023 12pm – 2pm

Held at: Council Chamber, Redcar Civic Centre, Redcar and Cleveland Borough
Council, Ridley Street, Redcar, TS10 1RT

Item No:	Meeting Notes	Action
TVICP/23/22	Welcome and Introductions	
	<p>Councillor Cook, as Chair, welcomed colleagues to the third Tees Valley Area Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) Meeting.</p> <p>Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Bob Cook (Chair) (BC) – Health and Well-being Board Chair & Leader of Stockton Borough Council • David Gallagher (DG) – Executive Area Director (South), NENC ICB • Craig Blair (CB) - ICB Director of Place, Middlesbrough / Redcar & Cleveland, NENC ICB • Alex Sinclair (AS) – ICB Director of Place (Stockton), NENC ICB • Brent Kilmurray (BK) – Chief Executive of Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust • Craig Blundred (CBlu) – Director of Public Health, Hartlepool Borough Council • Professor Derek Bell (DB) – Chair, North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust / South Tees Hospitals NHS FT • Dr Helen McLeish (HM) – PCN Clinical Director, Darlington PCN • Erik Scollay (ES) – Director of Adult Services, Middlesbrough Council • Councillor Alec Brown (AB) – Joint HWBB Chair – Live Well South Tees Board, Redcar and Cleveland Council 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen Hawkins (KH) - ICB Director of Place (Hartlepool) NENC ICB • Jane Smith (JS) – Service Lead Strategy Quality & Improvement – Children’s Service, Stockton Borough Council (<i>attending on behalf of Elaine Redding</i>) • Ken Ross (KR) – Public Health, Darlington Borough Council • Lucy Owens (LO) – Voluntary Sector Lead / 3rd Sector, Catalyst Stockton • Mark Adams (MA) – Director of Public Health, Middlesbrough Council / Redcar & Cleveland Council • Julian Penton (JP) - Voluntary Sector Lead/3rd Sector, Hartlepower (Hartlepool) (<i>attending on behalf of Mark Davis</i>) • Mayor Chris Cooke (CC) – Joint HWBB Chair Live Well South Tees Board – Middlesbrough Council • Martin Short (MS) - ICB Director of Place (Darlington), NENC ICB • Dr Jackie McKenzie (JM) - PCN/CD Representative, Hartlepool PCN • Richard Scothton (RS) – Chair, County Durham & Darlington FT (<i>attending on behalf of Sue Jacques</i>) • Peter Neal (PN) – Voluntary Sector Lead, Redcar & Cleveland Voluntary Development Agency (RCVDA) • Sarah Bowman-Abouna (SBA) – Director of Public Health, Stockton Borough Council • Emma Champley (EC) – Assistant Director, Adult Social Care Stockton Borough Council • Rebecca Morgan (RM) – Project Development Manager / Healthwatch Sub-Regional Co-ordinator, Healthwatch • Shona Duncan – Head of Business Solutions, Tees Valley Combined Authority (<i>attending on behalf of Helen Kemp</i>) • Dr Nick Steele – Bytes PCN Stockton (<i>attending on behalf of Dr Garg</i>) • Rob Harrison – Managing Director, South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust <p><u>In Attendance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kate Sutherland (KS) – Senior Governance Lead (Tees Valley) NENC ICB • Rebecca Herron (RH) – Governance Lead NENC ICB • Claire Attey (Note Taker) (CA) – Corporate Secretary, NENC ICB • Lynne Pearson (LP) – Corporate Secretary, NENC ICB 	
TVICP/23/23	Apologies for Absence	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Bharat Kandikonda - PCN/CD Representative – Middlesbrough PCN • Denise McGuckin – Managing Director of Hartlepool 	

	<p>Borough Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ian Williams – Chief Executive, Darlington Council • Jill Harrison - Director of Adult & Community Based Services, Hartlepool Borough Council • Jean Golightly - Director of Nursing (South), NENC ICB • Kathryn Boulton - Director of Children's Services, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council • Lynne Walton – Director of Finance (South), NENC ICB • Mark Davis (MD), Middlesbrough Voluntary Development Agency (MVDA) • Carolyn Nice - Director of Adults, Health & Wellbeing Stockton Borough Council • David Jennings – Chair, Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys FT • Dr Deepak Dwarakanath - Chief Medical Officer, North Tees and Hartlepool FT • Dr Dharendra Garg – Stockton PCN Representative • Elaine Redding – Director of Childrens Services, Stockton Borough Council • John Sampson – Managing Director and Chief Executive – Redcar and Cleveland Council • Lisa Oldroyd – Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer, Cleveland Police • Matthew Roche – Councillor, Darlington Borough Council • Mike Greene – Chief Executive – Stockton Borough Council • Miriam Davidson – Interim Director of Public health, Darlington Borough Council • Peter Strachan – Chair, North East Ambulance Service FT • Sally Robinson – Director of Childrens Services, Hartlepool Borough Council • Sue Jacques – Chief Executive, County Durham and Darlington NHS FT • Helen Kemp – Business Solutions Director, Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) • Sue Jacques (SJ) – Chief Executive of County Durham & Darlington Foundation Trust • Dr Teik Goh (TG) - PCN/CD Representative, Redcar and Cleveland PCN 	
TVICP/23/24	Declarations of Interest	
	<p>Councillor Bob Cook (BC) reminded colleagues of the importance of the robust management of conflicts of interest and asked individuals to raise any potential conflicts of interest as the meeting progressed. No conflicts of interest were raised.</p>	
TVICP/23/25	Minutes from previous meeting held 2nd June 2023	
	<p>The minutes of the meeting, held 2nd June, had previously</p>	

	<p>been circulated to members for comment. There were no amendments requested and therefore the minutes were AGREED as an accurate record. Confirmed minutes have also been shared with Health and Wellbeing Boards for information.</p>	
TVICP/23/26	Matters Arising & Action Log	
	<p>Action Log</p> <p><u>TVICP/23/15 – Healthwatch Update</u> Kate Sutherland (KS) explained that feedback was shared with the communications team for consideration around ensuring reports are made easily accessible for partners and they advised they will look to include links to HW sites/reports on the ICB website. The action can therefore be marked as complete.</p> <p><u>TVICP/23/15 – Healthwatch Update</u> KS advised that Enhanced Access to GP Services / Delivery Plan for Recovering Access to Primary Care had been added to the agenda for todays meeting. The action can therefore be marked as complete.</p> <p><u>TVICP/23/15 – Healthwatch Update</u> KS confirmed that Healthwatch work with Youth Focus: North East had been added to the forward planner to come to a future meeting. The action can therefore be marked as complete.</p> <p><u>TVICP/23/18 – Update from JSNA Work</u> It was noted that the presentation had been circulated to members. The action can therefore be marked as complete.</p> <p><u>TVICP/23/20 - Next Steps: Forward planning and future focus</u> A presentation on an overview of the voluntary sector had been added to the agenda for todays meeting. The action can therefore be marked as complete.</p> <p>Matters Arising</p> <p><u>Dental Access Recovery</u> Dave Gallagher (DG) referred to a presentation around Primary Care Dental Access Recovery: First Steps in the North East and North Cumbria (NENC) which was recently presented to the ICB Board and had been circulated to the membership in advance of the meeting. The presentation highlights that NHS England have delegated responsibility to NENC ICB for commissioning dental services from 1 April 2023. There are significant challenges to people accessing dentistry in NENC, and to</p>	

	<p>tackle the challenges the ICB are taking immediate actions to stabilise services, taking a more strategic approach to workforce and service delivery and developing an oral health strategy to improve oral health and reduce the pressure on dentistry.</p> <p>Action: It was suggested that an update around oral health work is provided at a future meeting of this group.</p>	CA
TVICP/23/27	Healthwatch Update	
	<p>The presentation had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Rebecca Morgan (RM), from the Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) explained that the PCP is a charity which runs health and wellbeing projects across the North East and have a contract in place with 5 Healthwatches in the North East, 3 of those are in the Tees Valley.</p> <p>Local Healthwatches are funded by and accountable to Local Authorities and hold a statutory position on their respective Health and Wellbeing Boards. Healthwatch work to understand the needs, experiences and concerns of people who use health and care services, and to represent their voices to decision makers so that services are better able to meet the needs of their local communities.</p> <p>In 2022/23 across the Tees Valley, Healthwatch produced 20 reports about the improvements people would like to see to health and care services.</p> <p>One theme which Healthwatch identified as a concern in the Tees Valley was issues around accessing NHS dentistry and the prohibitive cost of private dentistry. Access to a GP was also a theme in the Tees Valley, and Healthwatch South Tees have developed a public resource booklet called 'I need to see a doctor' to support people and answer their queries.</p> <p>Action: The 'I need a Doctor' document will be shared with the group following today's meeting.</p> <p>Other themes identified were access to mental health services, and issues around the quality of mental health services, concerns over pharmacy closures and the quality of pharmacy service, and women's health issues, particularly information around the menopause and services for under-represented communities.</p>	CA

	<p>In partnership with Youth Focus North East (YFNE) Healthwatch across the Tees Valley is working on the development of Youthwatch. Further information on this will come to a future meeting of this group, and this has been added to the forward planner.</p> <p>An in-depth review called 'Growing Older' has been commissioned by NECS to look into the needs of adults in the Tees Valley with a Learning Disability over the next decade and beyond.</p> <p>BC thanked RM for her presentation.</p> <p>DG also thanked RM for her presentation and noted that the key themes identified by Healthwatch provide an opportunity to work strategically across the system.</p>	
TVICP/23/28	Voluntary Sector Overview	
	<p>Julian Penton (JP) delivered a presentation on the Voluntary Sector and explained that the Tees Valley Infrastructure Partnership (TVIP) recognises the need for a single voice and brings together the 5 voluntary development agencies across the Tees Valley together with rural and regional infrastructure bodies.</p> <p>The role of the TVIP is to support and champion the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) and wider civil society in promoting community wellbeing and to provide a framework for stakeholders to engage with the VCSE across the Tees Valley.</p> <p>Voluntary development agencies are independent and have a degree of autonomy. They are in place for the benefit of the public and are governed by constitution or rules.</p> <p>Across the North East there is circa 7,500 registered third sector organisations, employing circa 38,000 employees and deploying circa 950,000 volunteers.</p> <p>The activity of the VCSE is across the full health and social care pathway and includes community-based support, preventative services, contracted services and pre and post hospital discharge.</p> <p>Alex Sinclair (AS) asked how a member of the public would find out a list of what voluntary sector organisations are</p>	

	<p>available and JP advised that the public would contact their local voluntary development agency.</p> <p>Mark Adams (MA) noted that as the voluntary sector are full and equal partners work is required around how the system includes the voluntary sector in policy and strategy development. JP noted that the voluntary sector would be very willing to provide their intelligence. Craig Blair (CB) added that voluntary sector colleagues were key in the development of the Tees Valley Plan.</p> <p>Helen McLeish (HM) asked whether there was an equivalent for the Darlington area. JP explained that there wasn't, However Martin Short (MS) provided assurance that whilst there is no infrastructure, there is a voluntary sector group in Darlington which meet on a monthly basis which can be fed into.</p> <p>JP advised that the voice of the community has the potential to shape what services look like for example the Lived Experience Forum which has been set up for people with mental health issues.</p> <p>BC thanked JP for his presentation.</p>	
TVICP/23/29	Recovering Access to Primary Care plan	
	<p>Karen Hawkins (KH) provided an overview of general practice and new national requirements in the Tees Valley and explained that there are 5 Local Authority areas, 78 practices and 14 Primary Care Networks (PCNs) in the Tees Valley which has a population of 723,084.</p> <p>The 78 practices are all independent contractors, and can each determine how they deliver services and explained the different contract types.</p> <p>A Primary Care Network Contract Directed Enhanced Service (DES) was introduced in 2019 which required practices to work at scale in PCNs. PCNs are not statutory organisations but are a grouping of practices working together under direction to deliver a suite of enhanced services.</p> <p>Under the PCN DES from October 2022 each PCN is required to provide 60 minutes of additional general practice capacity per 1000 adjusted population. Practices have the ability to subcontract this. The Investment and Impact Fund (IIF) is a points based scheme similar to the</p>	

	<p>Quality and Outcomes Framework (QoF) which has been redesigned for 2023/24.</p> <p>There have been a number of reports of access challenges to general practice. One reason for this is a high level of staff sickness, and recruitment and retention difficulties. There is a large backlog of care, along with a high level of demand in primary care. Increased call waiting times have caused frustration to patients, and there has been a significant increase in abuse to practice staff.</p> <p>The Primary Care Access Recovery Plan (PCARP) was released by NHS England to address the access issues in general practice. The main focus areas of the PCARP in 2023/24 are to empower patients to manage their own health, implement modern general practice access, build capacity and cut bureaucracy.</p> <p>In relation to PCN Capacity and Access Improvement Plans (CAIP), all 78 Tees Valley practices have been asked to look at patient experience of contact, ease of access and demand management and accuracy of recording in appointment books.</p> <p>Mark Adams (MA) queried where Health Inequalities would fit and KH explained that practices would be expected to look at their population, and work is ongoing with Public Health in relation to population health management.</p> <p>BC thanked KH for her presentation.</p>	
TVICP/23/30	Winter Planning	
	<p>The presentation had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Craig Blair (CB) noted that the Tees Valley Urgent and Emergency Care (UEC) system remains under significant and sustained pressure. The pressure is created by staffing issues, increased levels of acuity, discharge delays, bed pressures and flow issues. This makes it a complex system problem that requires a system response.</p> <p>The delivery plan for recovering UEC services contains 2 key ambitions to help with system recovery –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients seen quicker in ED: ambition to improve to 76% of patients being admitted, transferred or discharged within 4 hours by March 2024. • Ambulances attending to patients quicker: with improved response times for Cat2 incidents to 30 minutes on average in 2023/24. 	

	<p>To enable this improvement the NHS is committed to increasing UEC capacity, increasing workforce size and flexibility, improving discharge, expanding care out of hospital and making it easier to access the right care.</p> <p>In terms of the local infrastructure to help manage 2023/24 winter planning there is the Tees Valley Local Accident and Emergency Delivery Board (LADB) which is a system group that collaborates on the integration of high quality services in support off the wider UEC system. The System Control Centre (SCC) help to manage operation pressures on a day to day basis and the Incident Command Coordination Centre (ICCC) in the Tees Valley considers current and predicted capacity and demand pressures to support stakeholders on how to navigate pressures across the TV ICP.</p> <p>The LADB has developed a UEC Highlight Report to pull data from each partner and a supporting narrative to determine key risks. A system resilience template was developed to ensure the system was sighted on risks ahead of winter using Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE's). From the 66 KLOE's identified 16 were already in place (blue), 36 were on track to be implemented within the timeframe (green) and 14 were on plan but had risks associated with delivery (amber). The amber KLOE's will be discussed in detail in the LADB who will ensure monitoring and delivery against each over the coming months.</p> <p>Historically, additional funding often arrives late and the LADB have implemented a suite of business cases which could be deployed at short notice if requires.</p> <p>The UEC Managed Clinical Network (MCN) is responsible for driving key schemes of the LADB and are currently undertaking a procurement process to commission a standardised UEC model across the North and South of Tees by 1st April 2024.</p> <p>In relation to the spike in the 2 new variants of Covid-19, AB asked whether these were expected in line with national levels and queried whether the vaccination booster programme was available. KH explained that work is underway to implement an accelerated booster programme in relation to both covid and flu vaccinations, predominantly focused for the time being for care home patients, the elderly and vulnerable patient groups.</p> <p>SBA highlighted the importance of getting key public health messages out for example keeping warm in winter.</p>	
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	BC thanked CB for his presentation.	
TVICP/23/31	Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA)	
	<p>Shona Duncan (SD) explained that the TVCA was set up in 2016 as a result of a devolution deal with the government with the view of working together with constituent partners to achieve greater economic growth in the Tees Valley.</p> <p>In relation to the skills and employment devolution deal the TVCA has responsibility for the devolved adult skills budget.</p> <p>Another responsibility of the TVCA is the UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) of £4.8m which will support local residents to secure jobs, stay in work and progress their careers, including one to one support to help people overcome barriers to work such as skills or health problems. Focus is on wrap around support to mentor people to move towards the labour market and gain work.</p> <p>In terms of employer support, TVCA have a 7 point plan to work with organisations to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scope requirements 2. Understand and agree roles, numbers and timing 3. Draft and agree a recruitment and training plan 4. Work with schools and agencies to raise awareness of opportunities, and holding bespoke careers fairs 5. Work with skills providers to identify and commission training as appropriate 6. Monitor progress of skills development and deliver a pipeline of applicants 7. Pre screen and perform initial interviews to provide candidates ready to recruit <p>Examples of the TVCA adult skills support in relation to health were shared with the group.</p> <p>DG noted that the TVCA are a key system partner.</p> <p>Action: It was agreed that the presentation could be shared with the group following the meeting.</p> <p>BC thanked SD for her presentation.</p>	
TVICP/23/32	Items for future meetings	
	<p>Dave Gallagher (DG) noted that the first few meetings of the Tees Valley Area ICP meeting had set the scene, but the key was to now develop a work programme to focus on how we can play a part in improving the health and wellbeing of the population of the Tees Valley.</p> <p>ACTION</p>	

	<p>Items for future meetings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Taking forward the 'at scale' work to improve life expectancy highlighted in the previous DPH presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mental Health (Suicide Prevention Joint Post) - Joint learning from approaches during COVID response - Health Checks – approach to identifying risk factors - Local alcohol work – a good example of a local focus sharing learning - Substance Misuse (Joint Drug and Alcohol related deaths work) - Local NHS Trusts – joint working across different geographies. 2. Serious Organised Crime 3. Healthwatch standing item 4. Healthwatch Youth Focus North East 5. Women's Health Strategy 6. NTHFT/STHFT Update 7. Dentistry 	
TVICP/23/33	Any Other Business	
	<p>The Chair noted there were no further items of business advised and thanked members for their attendance and contributions to the meeting.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 2.15pm</p>	
	<p><u>Next Meeting</u> Date: Friday 3rd November 2023 Time: 12-2pm Venue: Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL), Brierton Lane, Hartlepool, TS25 4BY</p>	



31.10.23

Signed: Date:

Cllr Bob Cook (Chair)

Unconfirmed