

## NE Regional Member / Officer Scrutiny Network Meeting

Friday 8 July 2016 at 10.00 a.m.

Council Chamber, Gateshead Civic Centre

### MINUTES

#### Attended

Care Quality Commission	Colin Potter Brian Cranna
Centre for Public Scrutiny	Ed Hammond Steve Sienkiewicz
Durham County Council	Cllr Joe Armstrong Jenny Haworth
Gateshead Council	Cllr Neil Weatherley Angela Frisby
Middlesbrough Council	Cllr Denise Rooney Elise Pout
NHS	Ben Clark Mark Adams Alan Foster
North Tyneside Council	Cllr Sandra Graham Cllr John O'Shea Paul Wheeler
Northumberland County Council	Cllr Alan Sambrook Cllr Bernard Pidcock Cllr Allyson Wallace Paul Allen
Redcar & Cleveland Council	Cllr Steve Kay Cllr Philip Thompson Alison Pearson
South Tyneside Council	Paul Baldasera
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	Cllr Derrick Brown Graham Birtle Peter Mennear
Sunderland City Council	Nigel Cummings

## **1. Welcome**

Councillor Brown (Stockton) welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Angela Frisby and Graham Birtle for the support given during his two years as Chair of the Network.

## **2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Sue Hammond (Darlington Borough Council), Caroline Breheny (Middlesbrough Borough Council), Cllr Wendy Taylor, Cllr Sue Pearson (Newcastle City Council), Cllr Ian Lindley, Cllr Lynne Grimshaw, Cllr Kate Cairns, Cllr Kath Nisbet, Cllr Lesley Rickerby, Jackie Roll (Northumberland County Council), Cllr Norma Stephenson, Sharon Jones (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council), Cllr Bob Francis, Cllr Juliana Heron, Cllr Pat Smith (Sunderland City Council).

## **3. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 12 February are attached for approval.

Agreed

## **4. Centre for Public Scrutiny - The Action of Devolution**

Ed Hammond, Director for Local Accountability

Ed outlined the work of the CfPS as it was assisting the understanding about governance within devolved powers.

Members raised the issue of having two combined authorities in the region and possible implications that will result. Concern was expressed about decisions being taken behind closed doors.

Members expressed concerns regarding the vote to leave the EU especially the possible loss of EU funding into the region.

With the lack of structure given to directly elected mayors Members felt that this introduced risks into the governance of combined authorities. Ed Hammond believed that effective scrutiny could be applied to oversee the powers and decisions of mayors. He informed the Network that CfPS would be engaging with mayoral candidates through the LGA to assist their understanding of the governance arrangements.

## **5. NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plans**

Ben Clark, NHS England; Mark Adams, accountable officer for Newcastle Gateshead CCG and STP lead - Northumberland, Tyne and Wear; and Alan Foster, chief executive of North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust and STP lead - Durham, Darlington and Tees, Hambleton, Richmond and Whitby provided Members with a presentation that dealt with:

The background to the Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs);  
The national assurance process, expectations and actions to date;  
A view from the Northern England Clinical Networks of regional clinical priorities;  
An overview of the Northumberland, Tyne and Wear STP;

An overview of the Durham, Darlington and Tees (including Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby STP);  
An overview of NHS England Specialised Commissioning input into the North East STPs; and  
A summary of the remaining timelines and next steps in the process

Members asked about the Better Health Programme and how it fit with the STP programme as the footprints didn't match. Alan Foster explained that the Better Health Programme feeds into STPs but STPs are wider focused.

Members enquired about the involvement of the voluntary sector and how it was viewed within competitive tendering arrangements. Alan Foster responded by recognising the level of expertise that is contained in the voluntary sector, how they can shape the service, enhance provision and they are not considered as a cost cutting measure as was feared by Members.

The Chair asked that this item be considered again but that more time be allowed for discussion. This was agreed.

## **6. Care Quality Commission**

Colin Potter, Senior Regional Public Engagement & Involvement Officer – North Region and Brian Cranna - CQC Inspection Manager Hospitals (Mental Health) gave a presentation covering:

CQC work over last 3 years;  
Shaping the future: CQC new Strategy 2016 -2021;  
How CQC work with Scrutiny Committees;  
Updates on our national CQC work and campaigns;  
Our regional work with local Scrutiny Committees;  
Our work with Local Healthwatch; and  
Resources and information

Members queried the approach taken by the CQC where providers were meant to inform where their quality of provision was not good. Brian responded by informing Members that it gave the CQC information along with all the other intelligence that was being gathered. It is also meant to show the level of understanding that is contained within providers.

Colin announced that the network meetings have been a very useful to build regional relationships and were hopeful for this to continue. The Senior Regional CQC posts were not continuing but working with CfPS it was hoped to continue a relationship in some manner.

## **7. CfPS Update**

Steve Sienkiewicz, CfPS Regional Advocate (North)  
Ed Hammond, Director for Local Accountability

Ed informed the Members of the ongoing support for health scrutiny even though the CfPS and Department of Health had failed to agree the appropriate level of funding the CfPS receive.

As part of LGA funding the CfPS was planning work about local democracy and engagement designing local experiments to improve ways in which scrutiny and councils engage with residents. Information would be published in due course.

Steve told the Network that the regional advocate role was being lost due to the lack of funding.

**8. Any Other Business**

Nominations for Member Vice-Chair

As this was the final meeting that would be chaired by Councillor Brown (Stockton) with Councillor Jones (Newcastle) taking over there was now a vacancy for the Vice-Chair so nominations would be welcome for the next meeting of the network.

**9. Date and Time of Next Meeting – (to be confirmed)**