

4 November 2013**Agenda Item:**

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the Health Scrutiny Committee's work programme.

Information and Advice

2. The Health Scrutiny Committee is responsible for scrutinising decisions made by NHS organisations and reviewing other issues which impact on services provided by trusts which are accessed by County residents – specifically, those located in the Northern part of the County.
3. The work programme is attached at Appendix 1 for the Committee to consider, amend if necessary and agree.
4. The work programme of the Committee is currently under development. Emerging health service changes (such as substantial variations and developments of service) will be included as they arise.
5. Members will recall that at the last meeting, a proposal was made to add 'Dignity and Dying' (End of Life Care) to the work programme as a possible scrutiny review topic. Having sought further information about this subject, the following advice has been given by Helen Scott, Senior Public Health Manager at the County Council:-

Nottinghamshire has had an end of life care pathway for people who may be in the last year of life, and their carers, since 2009. The pathway applies for all diagnoses and in all care settings and is based on national best practice: this includes use of the Liverpool Care Pathway (LCP) in the last days of life.

The Independent Review of the LCP was published last month. It confirmed that when used correctly the LCP is able to offer quality care for those in their dying days. However the review also described a number of cases where the LCP was used incorrectly or inappropriately. The Government has announced that the LCP will be phased out and replaced with an end of life care plan. The review emphasises that dying patients must continue to receive good quality care in the interim.

NHS England has issued guidance for doctors and nurses on what to do, and SCIE has issued similar guidance for social care providers. Key points are:

- The principles of good palliative care, on which the LCP is based, **must** be upheld
- Where the LCP is being properly used, it must not stop abruptly
- Ensure that any decision to put any person on the Liverpool Care Pathway is made only by a senior responsible clinician
- A named senior clinician (e.g. a GP) should be accountable for the care of the person, and written records of the plan and any changes to it should be kept.

Training in end of life care is available to all providers free of charge to support implementation of the Nottinghamshire End of Life Care Pathway, as is round-the-clock advice from Specialist Palliative Care teams in Bassetlaw, Central Notts and Greater Nottingham.

Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust produced further guidance for staff using the LCP or considering using the LCP, which has been shared across the health and social care community by the Nottinghamshire End of Life Care Strategic Advisory Group. All of the Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Groups, Public Health and Adult Social Care and Health are represented on the Strategic Advisory Group.

An email from the NHS England National Clinical Director for End of Life Care stressed that local development of End of Life Care Plans for the dying person to replace the LCP should be resisted as this is currently being addressed nationally.

6. In light of this advice it is proposed that this item remain on the list of possible future topics but that it should not be progressed in the short term, and that a different topic be focused on as a potential subject for a review (hence the inclusion of the briefing on misdiagnosis).

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That the Health Scrutiny Committee considers and agrees the content of the draft work programme.

Councillor Kate Foale
Chairman of Health Scrutiny Committee

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Martin Gately – 0115 9772826

Background Papers

Nil

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All