



North Tyneside Council

Overview & Scrutiny Co-ordination & Finance Committee

Friday, 29 September 2023

Monday, 9 October 2023 0.02 Chamber – Quadrant, The Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside, NE27 0BY commencing at 6.00 pm.

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7. Update – Emergency Care in North Tyneside Task and Finish Group This report seeks to update the Committee on progress made by the Task and Finish Group in its work to date, and to propose arrangements for reporting of findings and recommendations from the Task and Finish Group once work on the initial terms of reference is concluded.	3 – 6

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Meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination and Finance Committee

Date: 9 October 2023

Title: Emergency Care in North Tyneside – Task and Finish Group Update

Author: Allison Mitchell, Head of Governance

Service: Governance

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 On 12 June 2023 Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination and Finance Committee (OSCFC) agreed to establish a specific Task and Finish Group to give effect to a Motion agreed at Council on 16 March 2023 relating to Emergency Care in North Tyneside. This report seeks to update the Committee on progress made by the Task and Finish Group in its work to date, and to propose arrangements for reporting of findings and recommendations from the Task and Finish Group once work on the initial terms of reference is concluded.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- (a) Note that a dedicated Task and Finish Group, specifically to take forward the matters in the Motion agreed at Council on 16 March 2023 regarding Emergency Care in North Tyneside, has been established as agreed by OSCFC on 12 June 2023;
- (b) Note that all non-Executive Members of the Council were invited to volunteer to participate in the Task and Finish Group, and that the Task and Finish Group comprises ten non-Executive members;
- (c) Note that four Task and Finish Group half-day work sessions have been arranged to progress the terms of reference agreed by OSCFC on 12 June 2023, and that work on the areas agreed by OSCFC at that meeting is now well-advanced;

- (d) Note that this work has included a detailed half day session receiving and scrutinising background evidence with senior officers from North Tyneside Council and Northumbria NHS Foundation Trust, in addition to imminent half day site visits scheduled at North Tyneside General Hospital and Northumbria Specialist Emergency Care Hospital;
- (e) Note that a final findings and recommendations development session has been arranged for Task and Finish Group members on 16 October 2023, at which all Task and Finish Group members have been invited to participate to develop conclusions and recommendations from the initial remit agreed;
- (f) Agrees that the initial report of the Task and Finish Group will be finalised by the Chair (who is also Chair of the Task and Finish Group) in consultation with the Members of the Task and Finish Group; and
- (g) Agrees that in turn, the Chair of OSCFC will arrange to present the initial report of the Task and Finish Group to Cabinet at its meeting on 27 November 2023, and to the following meeting of OSCFC on 11 December 2023, in order that the timeline agreed by OSCFC for this work is met.

3. Background

- 3.1 At its meeting on 12 June 2023 OSCFC agreed that a dedicated Task and Finish Group would be established to consider the following in relation to Emergency Care in North Tyneside:
- (a) **Need:** Gain an understanding of the need for emergency care in North Tyneside – particularly the Public Health view of the needs of the population
 - (b) **The current offer and performance:** Gain an understanding of the current range of services and how they perform
 - (c) **Background:** Gain an understanding of the decisions made to reach this point
 - (d) **Northumbria Specialist Emergency Care Hospital:** Set out an understanding on the reasons for the original decision to develop and deliver the Hospital, how that has worked and how the model has been adjusted through experience
 - (e) **Battle Hill Walk In Centre:** Set out an understanding of the reasons for the original decision to establish the centre, how it performed and what changed
 - (f) **North Tyneside General Hospital:** Develop an overview of the current offer at the Rake Lane site including input from the Director of Adult Social Care on the work done by the North Tyneside Council team alongside NHS colleagues at North Tyneside General Hospital. (Officers and Members may consider a site visit to be useful)
 - (g) **Community and patient voices:** Understand what is known about community views, and whether residents know how and where to access emergency care
 - (h) **What could be improved and how would that happen:** Understand any existing plans and develop recommendations on how need is met and how to respond to any community views

- 3.2 Since that time and continuing to date, work in respect of these objectives has progressed in earnest. A Task and Finish Group comprising of ten non-Executive members has:
- (a) Received a suite of background evidence compiled by North Tyneside Council, Northumbria NHS Foundation Trust, and North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board
 - (b) Held an initial evidence evaluation session with the Chief Executive of North Tyneside Council, the Director of Public Health, the Chief Executive of Northumbria NHS Foundation Trust, the Chief Operating Officer of Northumbria NHS Foundation Trust and the Business Unit Director for Emergency Surgery and Elective Care
 - (c) Considered key questions in relation to current arrangements and their background, and service delivery and performance
 - (d) Gathered information and requested additional information required to analyse demand and performance data as well as resident and patient feedback, from a range of sources
 - (e) Arranged two key site visits to North Tyneside General Hospital and Northumbria Specialist Emergency Care Hospital, due to take place on 9 and 10 October 2023.
- 3.3 OSCFC requested that the study should be complete and reported by the end of the calendar year, to ensure that reporting on this important matter is timely and to ensure that other items in the Committee's work programme are also given appropriate attention. Dates of the sessions of the Task and Finish Group have been planned with this timeframe in mind, with the final 'Finding and Recommendations Development Session' of the Task and Finish Group arranged for 16 October 2023.
- 3.4 It is proposed that the initial report of the Task and Finish Group will be finalised by the Chair (who is also Chair of the Task and Finish Group) in consultation with the Members of the Task and Finish Group; and that the Chair of OSCFC presents the report of the Task and Finish Group to Cabinet on 27 November 2023 and to OSCFC on 11 December 2023.
- 3.5 Since the time that the remit of the Task and Finish Group as outlined above was agreed and while that work has been actively progressing, a further motion was proposed to and agreed by full Council at its meeting on 21 September 2023 regarding 'all aspects of healthcare provision and policy which impacts on the workload of the NHS emergency response services and the effectiveness of that response'. Council agreed that the remit of the Task and Finish Group should be widened to include within its scope. The additionality set out in this further motion is noted. The most effective way of taking these matters forward will be discussed and agreed with the Chair of OSCFC and the Task and Finish Group. A further update and

methodology on how the work set out in the 21 September 2023 Motion is proposed to be undertaken will then be reported to OSCFC in due course.

Background Information

- Council Motion 4, Meeting of full Council on 16 March 2023 ([see here](#))
- Council Motion 2, Meeting of full Council on 21 September 2023 ([see here](#))