

North Tyneside Council

Report to Council

16 January 2020

Title: Questions by Members of the Public

Notice has been received of the following questions from members of the public to be put to the Council meeting.

1. Question to the Elected Mayor by Dr Groom of Whitley Bay

At a full council meeting on 22nd March 2018 North Tyneside Councillors unanimously passed the motion;-

This council agrees that there is a growing body of evidence questioning the wisdom of a key project from the NHS 5 Year Forward View: Accountable Care Organisations/Integrated Care Systems (ACO/ICS) In theory an ACO/ICS provider accepts a contract based on a fixed capitation-based fee to cover all of the designated health care issues for a local population and deliver an agreed range of outcomes. The ACO/ICS notion of a fixed capitated payment is complicated by the fact that in almost every instance in the NHS, commissioners have seen the new structures as a way to make substantial savings.

However, if there is insufficient money in the contract to deliver adequate care, yet providers remain accountable for delivery of specified outcomes, then providers will be unable to continue. This is what happened with a contract tendered out by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG when a 5-year contract collapsed within just 8 months. After a prolonged hiatus, a contract to organise cancer services for much of Staffordshire has also been abandoned before the contract was even signed, when the company named as preferred provider 'couldn't convince us they could deliver with the resources available. They couldn't meet the required evaluation criteria. This council agrees to oppose any proposal to implement the delivery of healthcare in North Tyneside via an ACO/ICO, a project which in the North Tyneside CCG's own report was stated to be high risk.

As a member of Keep Our NHS Public North East, I and many other North Tyneside residents remain extremely concerned that NHS England are forcing

local CCGs and local authorities to develop a healthcare system which will ultimately lead to increased privatisation and the demise of the NHS. This system, originally known as “Accountable Care Organisations” and recently rebranded as “Integrated Care Systems”, is imported from the United States where healthcare is multi-tiered, privatised, underpinned by health insurance, and is definitely NOT equitable, accountable or available to all in need.

We have noted the subsequent Actions of North Tyneside Council’s Health and Well-being board;-

On 22nd August 2018, the H and W Board received a presentation from Mark Adams, and the minutes of the meeting state

.....The Board welcomed the shift in emphasis reflected in the ICS proposals. Since 2012 the NHS had been based on a set of organisations designed to deliver different things in different ways. This new direction of travel provided an opportunity to think and act in a different way, to provide space for better collaboration and to create a shared responsibility for those issues which were too big for individual organisations to tackle on their own.

On 14th March 2019, the H and W Board received a presentation from Alan Foster

.....The Chair of the Board thanked Alan Foster for his informative presentation and for answering the Board’s questions. She made reference to the inverted hierarchy of service delivery included in the presentation which placed an emphasis on neighbourhood and place based commissioning. She believed North Tyneside was well placed to deliver this model.

On 24th October 2019 Keep Our NHS Public North East, which has many members who are resident in North Tyneside, emailed all councillors with our concerns and briefing papers.

Question;-

What evidence does North Tyneside Council have that members have opposed or even raised objections to the ICS? In becoming part of the ICS what safeguards have you obtained on behalf of North Tyneside residents to ensure services will not be privatised?

2. Question to the Elected Mayor by Mr Christie of Wallsend

Children are our future. They are the people who will be our future councillors, our future mayors, our future carers.

Our children deserve a safe environment in order to thrive, learn and play.

Unfortunately, across the Borough, children are unable to commute to and from school safely, because of drivers making the roads around our schools unsafe. This includes parents of children who take their children to school by car, because they don't believe the roads are safe to walk their children to school.

We see double parking, parking on double yellows, parking on junctions, rat running, parking on dropped kerbs, parking on raised tables, crossing attendants being tooted at, parents being sworn at for challenging, parents being driven at by other parents for challenging unsafe driving practices and the police getting involved, when they are already stretched. Residents of those streets that schools sit in are also penned in because of inconsiderate parking.

What is being created is an environment where our children are being told that in order to have any value, they must submit to car ownership.

Trials have already taken place in the Borough for closing streets off between the times when children are due to enter, and leave school, and have been welcomed by parents, children and residents involved in those trials.

When will North Tyneside Council take the next step and close streets off to allow children to safely walk, cycle or scoot to school in safety, without drivers putting their lives in danger?