

## North East Combined Authority

### Leadership Board (Extraordinary Meeting)

11 October 2016

Meeting held Committee Room, Civic Centre, Gateshead Council, Regent Street, Gateshead, NE8 1HH

#### Present:

Councillor: P Watson (Chair)

Councillors: G Davey, N Forbes, M Gannon, I Malcolm and Mayor N Redfearn

#### 62 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (MEMBERS)**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S Henig and Mr A Hodgson,

#### 63 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

#### 64 **"HEALTH AND WEALTH - CLOSING THE GAP IN THE NORTH EAST": REPORT FROM THE JOINT NECA/NHS COMMISSION FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INTEGRATION**

Submitted: (i) Covering Report of Interim Director Health and Social Care Integration; and (ii) "Health and Wealth – Closing the Gap in the North East", Report of the NECA/NHS Commission for Health and Social Care Integration (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Duncan Selbie, Chair of the NECA/NHS Independent Commission for Health and Social Care Integration, presented the report. He thanked the Leadership Board for the opportunity to conduct the review and all those involved for their valuable contribution.

The region was noted to have made significant progress in tackling key determinants of health and was now leading nationally on rates of improvement in life expectancy, cardio vascular disease and smoking cessation. However, there was still a long way to go and the area remained stubbornly behind on certain fundamental measurements including: - life expectancy (two years behind national average); and living in poor health for a long time. These indicators represented a huge loss to individuals and families and a significant productivity loss for the local economy.

Action was required to take the North East towards the national average and beyond. There were already excellent health and social care services in the area but

the regional health gap meant that services were being used at a greater rate and were therefore under pressure.

In considering the Commission's findings, members were referred to the following three key themes, which were noted to be underpinned by ten specific recommendations:-

- The need for a shift to prevention: at present expenditure on treatment was twenty times that of investment in prevention;
- The importance of work as a determinant of health: the creation of sustainable jobs for local people was the primary action required to improve public health;
- The need for strong system governance and leadership: this was essential to enable organisations to work effectively together to make best use of available resources and develop the best approach for the North East.

Members welcomed the Commission's report and in discussion noted the following key points:-

- (i) Successful implementation of the Commission's findings would require a commitment from all partners to work together and the adoption of a flexible approach to pooling resources across local government and health;
- (ii) People rather than systems must be placed at the centre of the process, with resources allocated where there was greatest need;
- (iii) To effect meaningful and sustainable change, NECA must take ownership of the Commission's report and invest upstream at a strategic level to grow the economy, jobs and housing, to improve public health and prevent illness. At the same time there was a need for greater clarity from the health sector on its overall direction, including the current Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) process which would require significant partner involvement to deliver.
- (iv) Effective investment was critical to prevent ill health and avoid the costs of crisis management at a later stage. However, current governance arrangements offered no clear guidance on how funding could be moved around the system to achieve that objective. Nationally, the NHS needed to incentivise the development of regional solutions which met local need, helping to keep people out of the most expensive part of the health care system and not just require adherence to national policy. This required trust at a national level and a willingness locally to tailor solutions to benefit the North East population.
- (v) Members considered the positive role of education in influencing life choices. At the same time it was noted that choices were not always shaped by free will and were often the result of the environment in which people lived. Local government must not only help people to understand the consequences of their actions but also shape the environment to change the choices that individuals can make.

D Selbie acknowledged the points raised by members, and reiterated the absolute importance of a healthy, sustainable economy to improving life chances. He urged members to take the opportunity to work together to invest wisely to build on the Commission's recommendations.

The Chair concluded by thanking Mr Selbie and all those who had contributed to the Commission's investigations and noted that the report was a very authoritative piece of work which local authorities and partners must take account of and consider how to take forward.

**RESOLVED** – that “Health and Wealth – Closing the Gap in the North East: Report of the joint NECA/NHS Commission for Health and Social Care Integration” be received and members agree to consider the recommendations within their respective organisations, with a view to discussing the way forward at a future meeting.

65 **DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING**

Tuesday 15 November 2016 at 2.00pm, County Hall, Durham.