

Maternity Matters – Proposed Scrutiny Topic Consultation Comments

1. Pete Dwyer – Director of Learning, Culture & Children’s Services

On reflection, it appears from the contents of the form that the topic proposed is looking more to the issues of whether the core health visiting service is meeting the needs of local families. The service has been changing with a more targeted approach - some would also challenge as to whether the level of Health Visitor provision is adequate and I am aware that NHS North Yorkshire & York are undertaking a review of the service and its level of resourcing.

I would defer to others, in particular Rachel Johns, as to whether a scrutiny debate at this stage would add value to those reflections. To be clear, whilst entitled ‘Maternity Matters’ the questions being asked do not pertain to the work of the midwifery service about which I am not aware of any concerns being raised.

2. Councillor Runciman – Executive Member for Children’s Services

The main focus of this topic seems to be on services provided by the PCT and the Acute Hospitals Trust. Although it could relate to provision for post natal care at our Children's Centres and some voluntary sector provision such as the ‘Treasure Chest’ groups, the main source of information should be in places other than CYC.

It could be a valuable topic and it would be interesting to see if there could be an effect on changing outcomes in the service, which is not controlled and managed by the council.

3. Margaret Jackson – Head of Midwifery Services – York Hospitals Foundation Trust

I agree with Pete Dwyer’s comments. In the light of the new policy document it seems appropriate to wait for the local response to this in relation to Health Visitor Services.

4. Gareth Whiles - Assistant Director Children, Maternity and Sexual Health - NHS North Yorkshire & York

Dated 03.11.2009

This is definitely an important area of work as good health visiting services are a vital part of a baby and child development. However there is work being undertaken locally that may affect whether this is the best time to carry out this study.

NHS North Yorkshire and York are beginning a piece of work that will culminate in a revised universal services model for 0-19 year olds that will be

in line with the Healthy Child Programmes for both 0-4 (released nationally in February 09) and 5 – 19 programme released last week. This work has 2 streams to it. The first is aimed at tackling key immediate major capacity concerns. By tackling these immediate issues it will allow time for the longer-term model to be developed and commissioned. This work will obviously take into account how Health Visiting services are provided in York

A workshop is being held later this week with Health Visitors to take the immediate work forward and make recommendations to the NHS North Yorkshire and York Integrated Commissioning Executive Committee (ICE)

The longer stream of work is starting its planning process and will be overseen by ICE but carried out through the PCT Children, Maternity and Sexual Health Commissioning Group with appropriate working group arrangements within this. The exact arrangements and project plans for this work are being finalised but will obviously need to take into account user, staff, and broader stakeholder views and requirements

Paul Murphy, CYC officer, is a member of the PCT Commissioning Group and both he, Gareth Whiles (Assistant Director at the PCT) and Jo Harding (General Manager- Children and Specialist Services North Yorkshire and York NHS Community and Mental Health Services) are members of City of York Integrated Commissioning Group that reports into the YorOk Board. Progress of this work will be fed through the ICG group

With this in mind it is felt that now may not be the appropriate time to undertake a study of this nature

5. York LINK

Members of the York LINK Steering Group think this is a feasible topic for scrutiny and fits with the eligibility criteria set out in the topic registration form.