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Monday 30th January 2012

Dear

**York Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee - End of Life Care
Review (use & effectiveness of DNACPR forms)**

As you will hopefully be aware the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee in York are currently undertaking a review entitled 'End of Life Care – The Use and Effectiveness of DNACPR¹ Forms'. As part of this review the Committee would like to receive evidence from key partners who provide services across the city.

The Committee will be meeting on Wednesday 29th February 2012 at 3pm in the Guildhall, York and hope that you will be able to attend to give evidence and join the discussion. The meeting will be informal, but will be open to the public and all material submitted will, potentially, form part of the final report arising from the scrutiny review. Please can you let me know as soon as you can who will be attending from your organisation?

¹ Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

In the meantime, in order that the Committee, can collate some background information (on which the content of the meeting will be based) you are kindly requested to answer, in writing/via e-mail, the following questions in order that the Committee can give consideration to your responses prior to the meeting. It would be appreciated if you could respond directly to the Scrutiny Officer by no later than Friday 17th February 2012.

Questions

In the Yorkshire and Humber region there is a collectively recognised and agreed DNACPR form. This form has been adopted by all health care providers in the Yorkshire and Humber region and the Yorkshire Ambulance Service.

1. Is your organisation using this form? If not, why not? Are all the relevant members of staff aware of its existence?
2. Can you give the Committee some positive examples of the way your organisation has used the DNACPR form?
3. What training has your organisation provided in relation to completing and using the form? What percentage of staff has your organisation trained? When will the remainder be trained? Can you evidence how staff are trained? In addition to this do you offer refresher training and routinely offer training to all new members of staff on how to use the form?
4. How has the use of the form been integrated into your own policies? Is it written into your own policies?
5. Do you audit the use of the form? If so, how?
6. In relation to the DNACPR form - have you received any complaints from families after a relative has passed away? If so, what lessons have you learned from this?
7. Are there any barriers to your organisation using the form? If so, what are these and what action have you taken to try and resolve this?
8. Has your organisation had any experience of the form not working? If so what were these experiences and what course of action was taken to try and resolve the problem?
9. Has your organisation had any experience of patients being given CPR even though there has been a DNACPR form in place? What were the circumstances which overruled the DNACPR decision?
10. Is there anything further that you think the Committee should be aware of in relation to the use and effectiveness of DNACPR forms (either generally or within your organisation)?

11. If a DNACPR form was not accepted by Yorkshire Ambulance Service when transporting a patient, why was it not accepted?

I look forward to receiving your written response and seeing you at the meeting on 29th February 2012.

Yours sincerely

Tracy Wallis
Scrutiny Officer (on behalf of the Chair of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee)

This letter has been sent to the following key partners for response:

Yorkshire Ambulance Service
St Leonard's Hospice
York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Independent Care Group
Adult Social Services – City of York Council
NHS North Yorkshire & York

A copy of this letter has been sent to the following who will also be invited to the meeting:

Vale of York GP Commissioning Consortium
Dr Faller from Haxby Group Practice
Dr Ian Lyall, Strensall Medical Group
Julie Dale, MacMillan Palliative Care Nurse, York Hospital
Jenny Carter Directorate Manager for Community Services, York Hospital
Co-operative Funeral Directors
Macmillan Cancer Support (York Branch)
Leeds Partnership Foundation Trust
Alzheimer's Society (Local Branch)
The Stroke Association (York Branch)
Age UK (York Branch)
Older People's Assembly
The Police
British Heart Foundation
York CVS
York Link
York Carer's Centre