

HEALTH AND WELLBEING OSC

REPORT TO CABINET

03 AUGUST 2021

Dissolution of the Council's partnership with Northumbria Healthcare

Daljit Lally, Chief Executive and Cath McEvoy-Carr, Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Children's Services, introduced the report to the committee Yesterday 2 August 2021. An invitation to attend this meeting had been extended to all scrutiny members as it was felt the dissolution of the partnership raised questions within the terms of reference of all 4 scrutiny committees. Liz Morgan, Director of Public Health, and Maureen Taylor, Director of Business Development was also in attendance to answer questions.

The Committee questioned why Northumbria Healthcare had brought an end to the partnership and were interested to understand the reasons why. The chair pointed out that the meeting had been called to discuss the new arrangements that were being put in place not the reasons why the Trust had withdrawn from the partnership. Nevertheless, some members of the Committee felt at some point it should ask the Trust to attend a scrutiny meeting to explain its actions

Reassurance was sought that staff transferring would not be disadvantaged in any way and there would be no detrimental changes to the operational management of any services. Work was being undertaken to understand the practical and financial implications of any changes, but members understood that the dissolution of the partnership would allow the Council to work closer with other organisations such as CNTW and Northumberland Community Together in order to further enhance the current provisions to support vulnerable residents.

Members articulated their desire to receive updates early in 2022 and requested complete and detailed financial information be made available to allow to the committee to fully understand all the implications as a result of the changes.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to advise the Cabinet that it supported the recommendations contained in the report and hope the changes would support the advancement of social care and drive further improvement for the residents of Northumberland.

COUNCILLOR JEFF REID

CHAIRMAN