



investing in children

# **Better Health Programme**

## **South Durham Agenda**

### **Day™ Report**

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*Promoting the Rights of Children & Young People*

## Introduction

We are part of the County Durham Health Group for Investing in Children. Investing in Children is committed to ensuring that Children and Young People have a say in decisions that affected them. Investing in Children's young people's Health Group is a group funded by North Durham & Durham Dales Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG). The group is a county wide group that meets second Thursday of the month in Durham. The meeting consist of around twelve young people and we gather to discuss different matters and have covered a range of topics.

We were asked by North East Commissioning Support (NECS) to involve young people in discussions through Agenda Days™ about the Better Health Programme. An Agenda Day™ is an adult free space, this means that adults don't take part in the debate, and the children and young people are free to discuss issues without adult influence. This was achieved by using young people as facilitators.

The 'Better Health Program' (BHP) is about how the NHS in Darlington, Durham, Tees and North Yorkshire can improve care for patients in hospital and in the community. Key points are listed below.

- More patient care could be provided outside of hospital, in the community or at home supported by GPs, NHS community services, social care and the voluntary sector.
- Your local hospital would still provide: outpatients clinics; scans and other tests; planned operations; midwife led maternity care, and urgent care for non-life threatening illnesses and injuries.
- For life threatening emergencies patients should go by ambulance to a specialist emergency hospital with senior experienced staff 24/7
- This happens now for heart attacks, strokes and serious injuries. They believe this should also happen in other serious emergencies, like internal bleeding, and for women and babies at risk of complications during childbirth.
- We should centralise care for serious emergencies in fewer hospitals than at present so that experienced staff can be available 24/7

15 Young People age 10-19 attended 2 sessions 1 in Bishop Auckland and 1 at Hope Wood Academy in Easington.



**The first question both groups of young people were asked was: What was good or bad about specialist hospitals?**

The group of young people at Hope Wood Academy said:

Good:

***"You would get better transport and then you wouldn't have to get moved to another hospital"***

***"If there is a minibus or help for families to come and see you it would be fine"***

Bad:

***"You could die on the way there"***

***"My mum can't drive"***

***"Parking and travel are expensive"***

The group from Bishop Auckland said:

Good:

***"Put in perspective the idea is good but it has its problems"***

Bad:

***"Might die or get worse before you get there"***

**The next question the groups were asked was: What type of health services would you like to be able to access in your local community?**

The group of young people at Hope Wood said they would like to be able to access services such as; x-ray, plaster cast, pharmacies/chemist, doctors and they also wanted more education about where to go if you have something wrong with you rather than going to the hospital for everything.

The group of young people from Bishop Auckland said they wanted to be able to access services such as; doctors in the hub, physiotherapists, improved ambulance systems and chemo therapy.

**The next question the groups of young people were asked was: How can we get people to use the community services rather than go to a hospital?**

The group at Hope Wood said that you could tell people where to go depending on what's wrong with them and not have to go to hospital for everything.

The group from Bishop Auckland said it could be advertised through social media sites such as Facebook.

**The next question the groups were asked was: What is good about reducing Paediatric wards and what is bad about it?**

The group from Hope Wood Academy did not answer this question but the group from Bishop Auckland said:

***"Keep it open in Bishop Auckland"***

***"If a child is ill it's unfair. Should give children special care to make them feel safe and comfortable."***

***"Take longer and would be worse"***

**The next question the groups were asked was: What is important when leaving the hospital?**

The group from Hope Wood said that it is important to go to the doctor for review rather than travel back to the hospital every two days. They also said that the doctors should come to you and there should be a medication delivery service to save you from having to keep going to get medicine.

The Bishop Auckland group said that it is important that the care after hospital is given at the patient's home to avoid any other illnesses or injuries.

**The final question the groups were asked was: Is it better to get the best possible care and have to travel further or have services closer but not necessarily specialist services?**

The Hope Wood Academy group decided that it was better to travel further for the specialist services in order to receive the best possible care.

The Bishop Auckland group decided that specialist care was more important but it would be better to get specialist care in every hospital.

The Bishop Auckland group came up with a few more points they wanted to add during the discussion:

***"Instead of doctors it should be specialist nurses as many people prefer to talk to nurses"***

***"Shouldn't pay for dental care"***

***"Shouldn't have to pay for prescriptions"***

***"Want them to stop closing down hospitals"***

***"More entertainment in hospitals"***

***"More attention to young people/teenagers"***

***"Faster ambulance time"***

***"More specialist care in hospitals"***

***"Specialist doctors should make house calls"***

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