

Scrutiny Officer update 10th September 2018

1. Anaerobic Digestion Working Party report

This report was requested by the Scrutiny Committee in order to better understand the process, science and potential impact of Anaerobic Digestion (AD) on Mid Devon as a source of renewable energy and bio fertiliser.

2. District and Community nurse retention/NHS absence rates

Cllr Roach raised concerns about the district/community nurse retention rates and NHS sick absence;

- How many experienced district Nurses are being lost, how many have left and what the current shortfall is.
- Why sickness levels are so high in the NHS

With regard to the District Nurses there is a recent House of Commons Health Committee report (Jan 2018) attached that provides a comprehensive overview of the Nursing workforce. On pg.7 of the report nursing professions are listed - a decrease of district nurses of 45% since 2010 is indicated. Further data from Royal Devon and Exeter is being sought to understand the impact locally.

Absence rates (%) for Royal Devon and Exeter for Jan 2017 to Jan 2018 are as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
5.85	5.29	4.62	4.52	4.84	4.63	4.84	4.49	4.40	4.83	5.56	5.55	6.80

The NHS produces data for absence rates for all health authorities across the UK which can be found at:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/nhs-sickness-absence-rates>

January 2018 recorded a particularly high rate for the RD and E. The bad flu season was probably the key factor. Many other areas scored equally high sickness rates for this period.

3. Community Engagement Working Group

The results of the Town and Parish survey have now been collated and will be discussed at the next Community Engagement Working group. There were twenty two responses in total. The revised draft communication strategy has being prepared by the Communications Manager which will also be reviewed by the Working Group (28/8/18).