

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

19 December 2007

SCRUTINY OF HEALTH COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

Scheduled Meeting – 23 November 2007

Programme Budgeting and Marginal Analysis in the NHS Locally

1. The Committee received a detailed presentation from Dr Peter Brambleby, Director of Public Health (North Yorkshire and York PCT) on programme budgeting and marginal analysis.
2. Peter explained how this new national project led by the Department of Health would for the first time enable clinicians and managers to trace and analyse NHS expenditure within PCTs. The data could also be used to extract information on patient outcomes which in turn would enable a PCT to compare its performance with others, see where improvements were needed and to plan services. The project captured data using 23 programme budget categories that tracked a patient's healthcare journey including contributions from agencies outside the NHS. The categories included mental health problems, maternity and reproductive health and blood disorders.
3. Traditionally NHS expenditure has been loaded at the beginning and end of a patient's life. By using the new Health Needs Assessment Framework, priorities and resource allocation could now be agreed to improve a patient's health and quality of life and reduce healthcare inequalities.
4. Peter emphasised that a shared ownership approach was essential if a sustainable healthcare service was to be achieved.
5. We are planning to hold a workshop with Dr Brambleby early in the New Year when we will have a further opportunity to contribute to the development of the plan and where the Committee may be able to support its implementation.

Reducing Emergency Admissions to Acute Hospitals

6. The Committee has decided to undertake a project looking at what can be done to reduce emergency admissions using the Harrogate area as a 'pilot' for that work.
7. John Lawlor, Chief Executive, Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust gave an extremely helpful presentation on trends in emergency admission to his hospital and summarised work that is taking place locally to control them. John acknowledged that as a result of the success of efforts to support people in their own homes there had been a reduction in beds at his Hospital but this had not had a significant impact on the organisation's ability to manage emergency admissions. Also, newly introduced working arrangements in A&E had been widely welcomed and more than compensated for the reduction in bed capacity.

8. Ian Walton, Interim Chief Executive and John Darley, Director of Operations, from the Yorkshire Ambulance Service summarised work being undertaken to improve the skill mix amongst ambulance crews to reduce the number of emergency calls and unnecessary patient journeys to hospital. The recruitment of additional front-line staff to be located across the whole of County was also underway.
9. Gary Hardman (Director of Nursing and Patient Care) and Richard Reid (Acting Assist Director Performance and Business Intelligence) at the PCT also summarised how the PCT is working with partner agencies to introduce innovative measures for reducing emergency admissions. Members may recall the video that Janet Soo-Chung ran at a recent Members seminar.
10. The discussions helped Members to understand some of the issues surrounding emergency admissions. The availability of beds is only one side of the story and we must acknowledge that the acute trust have to manage their activities efficiently. So whilst the number of beds is a factor, we will be concentrating on what more can be done to prevent admissions. We will be doing this by looking at such admissions across a range of factors, such as preventing admissions:
 - amongst older people,
 - amongst younger people,
 - amongst people suffering with a chronic condition such as asthma or diabetes, and,
 - during the out of hours periods.
11. We will be meeting in the New Year with colleagues in the NHS to do further work on planning this project and to identify how the Committee can make a difference, including highlighting best practice across the County.

Rutson Hospital, Northallerton

12. Janet Probert (Director of Operations, North Yorkshire and York PCT) outlined the reasons for the relocation of services currently provided at the Rutson Hospital and described the various options that had been considered. Janet confirmed that whilst negotiations with South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust had still to be finalised both parties had agreed in principle that the Rutson Hospital would be relocated to Ward 3 at the Friarage Hospital site. Janet emphasised that the transfer would not result in any change being made to personnel, patients, or the provision of services which would be relocated on a like for like basis.
13. On behalf of the Hambleton and Richmondshire Carers Association I raised a number of questions with Janet. In response Janet confirmed that the number of beds would be the same and the hospice and GP respite beds would be retained. It was also highlighted how the convenient co-location of services on the Friarage Hospital site would support that hospital's long term financial security. The relocation would lead to a "win-win" situation.
14. All contributors to the debate highly commended the services currently provided by staff at the Rutson Hospital and were reassured that this level of care would continue in the new arrangements.

15. Janet commented that she did not envisage any difficulty in renaming Ward 3 “The Rutson Ward”.
16. Together with Councillors David Billing and David Heather I visited the Rutson Hospital the day before the Committee meeting. The building is in clear need of improvement and changes were clearly necessary.
17. We unanimously supported the PCT’s proposals.

Engagement by NHS Colleagues

18. The meeting on 23 November was attended by:

Harrogate & District NHS Foundation Trust

John Lawlor (Chief Executive)

North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust

Peter Brambleby, (Director of Public Health),

Janet Probert (Director of Operations)

Gary Hardman (Director of Nursing and Patient Care)

Richard Reid (Acting Assist Director Performance and Business Intelligence).

Yorkshire Ambulance Service

Ian Walton (Acting Chief Executive)

John Darly (Director of Operations)

19. I warmly thanked all of them for attending the meeting to help the Committee with its work. This level of engagement from very senior colleagues is very much appreciated. I particularly thanked Janet Probert for attending at very short notice.

County Councillor John Blackie

(Upper Dales Division)

Chairman – North Yorkshire County Council Scrutiny of Health Committee

07 December 2007