

North Yorkshire County Council**18 July 2012****Scrutiny of Health Committee – Statement by the Chairman**

The main developments and issues arising since my last report are summarised below.

Children's and Maternity Services at the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton

The Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), led by Dr Vicky Pleydell, has now completed all nine of its local public engagement meetings, most of which I chaired. County Councillor Heather Moorehouse, chaired the events in Stokesley and Bedale.

The events have been very useful and there has been good debate including the CCG summarising the difficulties being faced at the Friarage Hospital and being able to hear, first hand, the strength of public feeling on the importance of children's and maternity services at the hospital.

Visits have taken place to Sunderland, Banbury and Wansbeck to see how the NHS in those areas have addressed similar problems to those being encountered at the Friarage.

The visit to Banbury was particularly useful as we heard how the Trust had built up a new team of consultant paediatricians at the Horton Hospital at a cost of some £2.5m pa.

In Wansbeck they have managed to retain the local Paediatric Unit by appointing advanced neo-natal nurse practitioners supported by consultants on call.

It is important to remember that at this stage we are contributing to an engagement process. Consequently, as I mentioned in my previous statement to County Council, the approach which the Committee is taking is to ensure that there is a thorough and inclusive engagement process and to work constructively with the NHS on the way forward.

The report on the outcome of the engagement process and the planned way forward which was to have been considered by the Board of NHS NY&Y at the end of July has been delayed until September.

National Review of Children's Cardiac Surgery

I continue to represent the Scrutiny of Health Committee on the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Joint Scrutiny of Health Committee, which along with other regional scrutiny committees across the country was consulted formally on the proposals.

The Joint Scrutiny Committee has met several times since its first meeting in March 2011 and has done a tremendous amount of work to support retention of children's cardiac surgery unit at the Leeds General Infirmary. On 4 July 2012 the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts, which has been undertaking the review, announced proposals under which the Leeds unit would close and networks of congenital cardiac services would be established around the following designated surgical centres:

- Freeman Hospital, Newcastle
- Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool
- Birmingham Children's Hospital
- Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
- Southampton General Hospital
- Great Ormond Street Hospital, London
- Evelina Children's Hospital (Guys and St. Thomas'), London

This was presented as Option B in the original consultation document, although the two London centres are now explicit.

It should be noted that the Joint Scrutiny Committee had already referred this matter to the Secretary of State on the grounds of a flawed consultation process.

A particular concern which the Joint Scrutiny Committee has consistently expressed is that the NHS will shortly be launching a second consultation on the future of adult cardiac surgery across the country. The Joint Scrutiny Committee strongly feels that any decisions on children's cardiac surgery could prejudice future decisions on adult cardiac surgery. The Joint Scrutiny Committee will continue to campaign for the retention of the Leeds unit. I remain of the view that the units at both Leeds and Newcastle should be retained.

The Joint Scrutiny Committee will be holding its next meeting on 24 July to agree a way forward and I will be attending.

Mental Health: Hospital Services for Adults and Older People in Airedale, Bradford and Craven

In our formal response to the consultation on this matter we raised a number of major concerns, most notably a general lack of consideration for people in the Craven being faced with long journeys to access a new service based in Lynfield Mount in Bradford. Together with County Councillors Shelagh Marshall and Polly English, I will be meeting representatives from the Bradford District Care Trust and both the NHS Bradford and Leeds and NHS North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trusts to discuss how our concerns will be addressed.

NHS North Yorkshire and York Budget Situation

At the PCT's Board meeting on 26 June 2012, which I attended, Chris Long, Chief Executive, announced that the PCT is facing a projected finance deficit at the end of the year of £19m. In my address to the Board I commented that the eventual outturn figure is more likely to be in the region of £40m to £50m. Chris Long accepted that £19m was an optimistic estimate of the likely final outturn figure and was based on a mild winter and "good luck".

I also expressed concerns on the impact that this level of deficit would have on the acute trusts and how it could delay the authorisation of the new Clinical Commissioning Groups.

Formal Consultation – Mental Health Services - Alexander House, Knaresborough

In March, NHS North Yorkshire and York received a request from Tees, Esk and Wear Valley (TEWV), the mental health provider within the Harrogate locality to launch a consultation on removing dementia beds within Alexander House, Knaresborough.

Discussions are now underway between the new commissioner of these mental health services, Harrogate and Rural District Clinical Commissioning Group, in conjunction with TEWV. A period of engagement followed by a formal consultation with service users, their families and stakeholders is likely to commence later this year.

Service Developments in Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust

On 14 June I attended an event in Harrogate organised by the Trust to consider the key issues for local health over the next five years in the Harrogate and District area. The event was part of work which the Trust is carrying out to develop a long-term strategy. It was attended by representatives from a wide range of stakeholders.

The two main thoughts that I took away from the event were:

- the importance of developing sustainable services for an ageing population and the huge impact that dementia could have on overall demand;
- how small district general hospitals will respond to an increasingly specialised healthcare environment and how this will affect their long term viability.

Scarborough Hospital

On 1 July, York Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust completed the formal acquisition of Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Healthcare NHS Trust, signalling the start of a new era of healthcare for the residents and visitors of North Yorkshire and the Yorkshire Coast. From this date Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Healthcare NHS Trust ceased to exist as an organisation as it – and its

2,500 staff members – became part of York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. The newly-formed organisation employs over 8,500 staff working across ten hospital sites and in the community.

The acquisition in many ways marks the start of the work to fully integrate the two organisations and services that are provided in the community. It has been announced against the background of the Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Healthcare NHS Trust recently being identified by Department of Health as one of the 22 trusts facing major financial problems across the country.

Playing a part in successfully bringing the two organisations together and ensuring healthcare services in provided by the new trust are sustainable in the long term will be a key priority for the Committee.

Developing Links with the Clinical Commissioning Groups

Good working relationships with the emerging CCGs will be essential. I recently met Dr Phil Garnett, Chairman – Scarborough and Ryedale CCG and attended the Vale of York CCG's Patient and Public Congress when I met with Professor Alan Maynard, Chairman.

Good working relationships have already been established with the Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby CCG. Dr Alistair Ingram (Clinical Chair - Harrogate and Rural District CCG) will be attending our next committee meeting.

County Councillor Jim Clark

Chairman: North Yorkshire County Council Scrutiny of Health Committee

July 2012