

SCRUTINY MATTERS AND REVIEWS UNDERTAKEN BY THE COMMISSION

68/07 - **PCT MODERNISATION - FINANCIAL RECOVER PLAN:** Further to Minute 06/07, the Chair invited Mr John Brown, Director of Corporate Affairs and Communications at the PCT and Mrs Debbie Newton, Assistant Director of Finance at the PCT to address the Commission. Mr Brown provided an update on the work carried out by the PCT during the last six months and outlined the healthcare services that North Yorkshire and York PCT were responsible for. The PCT had a current operating budget of £1 billion with approximately 5,000 employees and approximately 4,600 of which were responsible for front line services. He reported on the inherited debt from the previous organisations and detailed the financial recovery plan and it was noted that they were on course to clear existing debt and plan for future investments by April 2009. He referred to the practice based commissioning which engaged all clinicians with GP's being responsible for their own budgets.

Mrs Newton then reported on the latest financial position of the PCT and she advised that £20m savings (£40m target) had been achieved in 2007/08 through alternative approaches and without the need for service cuts. It was envisaged that the remaining £19m deficit would be paid during the 2008/09 financial year and it was also anticipated that £10m of savings would also be made. The overall aim was for the PCT to break even by the end of the 2008/09 financial year.

Questions were then invited. One Member queried the partnership work undertaken by the PCT in relation to shared clinical services and Mrs Newton commented that this was incorporated as part of practice based commissioning. In response to a query regarding the working relationship with the voluntary and community sector and the funding available to the Local Strategic Partnerships (LSP), Mr Brown advised that the PCT had an agreement with the Local Strategic Partnership, NYCC and District Councils and that funding for the LSP's was announced as early as possible. With regard to public engagement, it was reported that the PCT had developed a Public and Patient Engagement Strategy as well as a development plan which included the commitment to engage with user groups. In response to a query regarding the Home Energy Conservation Act and its relationship with treating hypothermia, Mr Brown agreed to provide a response to the Members.

One Member queried the car parking costs at Harrogate hospital and it was noted that as the hospital was operated as a Foundation Trust they were responsible for setting their own fees and charges. The PCT also agreed to provide a response in relation to the current position of the potential health centre at Westmoreland Street, Harrogate.

The Chair thanked the officers for their attendance.

(5.33 pm - 6.08 pm)