

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

SCRUTINY OF HEALTH COMMITTEE

21 January 2011

Out of Hours Service in Richmond and Catterick

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an opportunity for Members to consider a motion agreed by Richmondshire District Council with regard to the GP Out of Hours Service (OoHS) in the Catterick area and to agree a way forward.

Background

2. During November 2010 NHS North Yorkshire and York (NHS NY&Y) introduced a new way of working during the out of hours period at the Primary Care Centres (PCCs) in Catterick Garrison, Selby and Skipton. The changes followed an analysis of activity which highlighted, for instance, that frequently less than seven patients per week were contacting the Catterick service.
3. Under the new system calls to the Catterick Garrison, Skipton and Selby PCCs between 11pm to 8am are first being triaged (prioritised) by GP's at the neighbouring larger PCCs at Northallerton, Harrogate and York. This has enabled new working arrangements to be introduced whereby GPs in the areas involved work a "sleeping shift". But the doctors will still be available to see patients needing a face to face consultation either at the PCC or at home.
4. NHS NY&Y has emphasised that the clinical pathway for patients in Richmondshire contacting the Out of Hours service remains unaltered in every respect. Patients will continue to be seen both at home and at the Primary Care Centre in Catterick by the GP at Catterick.
5. Members will recall that County Councillor Blackie raised the changes as a matter of concern at the Committee meeting in November 2010.

Richmondshire District Council Motion

6. At its meeting on Tuesday, 14 December 2010 the Council considered an original motion by Councillor Rob Johnson which was seconded by Councillor John Blackie. After debate over the exact wording a final motion was agreed unanimously as set out below:

"Richmondshire District Council is deeply concerned by the decision by the York & North Yorkshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) to downgrade the 'Out of Hours' service through the changing of the overnight shift arrangement at Catterick Primary Care Centre thereby reducing the available night cover provided by GPs through the introduction of 'sleep

arrangements' with live cover being available from the Friarage, Northallerton.

That this concern/decision by the PCT be referred to the next North Yorkshire Scrutiny of Health Committee for urgent debate."

7. The Head of Democratic Services at RDC subsequently wrote to your Scrutiny Support Officer requesting that the motion be considered at the next meeting of this Committee.

A Possible Way Forward

8. Members are invited to consider setting up a task group to examine this issue in more detail and to report back to the next meeting of the Committee in April. A suggested terms of reference for this work is set out below:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ❖ Objective | To determine whether or not there has been any diminution in the OoHS in the area, including whether or not it is operating as envisaged by NHS NY&Y. |
| ❖ Methodology | Review of background information, including correspondence and press releases issued by NHS NY&Y. |
| ❖ Suggested Composition (total 5 members) | Chairman: County Councillor Jim Clark, plus 4 other Members |
| ❖ Timescale | To report back to the Committee on 8 April 2010. |

Recommendations

9. That Members agree a way forward, including consideration of the option to set up a task group to investigate this matter further.
10. That Richmondshire District Council is notified accordingly.

BRYON HUNTER
Scrutiny Team Leader

County Hall, NORTHALLERTON
12 January 2011

Background Documents: None