

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

SCRUTINY OF HEALTH COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at County Hall on 8 April 2011 commencing at 10.00 am.

PRESENT:-

County Councillor Jim Clark (Chairman).

County Councillors:- Val Arnold, John Blackie, Polly English, Andrew Goss, Margaret Hulme, Michael Knaggs, Shelagh Marshall, John McCartney, Joe Plant (substitute for Heather Moorhouse), Chris Pearson and John Savage (substitute for John Clark).

District Council Members: - Helen Firth (Craven), Shirley Shepherd (Hambleton), Ian Galloway (Harrogate) Elizabeth Shields (substitute for John Raper – Ryedale) and Rob Johnson (Richmondshire).

Officers: Bryon Hunter (Scrutiny Team Leader), Jane Wilkinson (Legal and Democratic Services).

Present by Invitation:

NHS North Yorkshire & York – Janet Probert, Sue Metcalfe and Mel Bradbury.
Yorkshire Ambulance Service – Helen Hugill.

In attendance:-

County Councillor Tony Hall

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of County Councillor John Clark and Heather Moorhouse and District Councillors John Raper (Ryedale) and Ruth Sayner (Selby).

In attendance two members of the public.

COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK

72. MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2011 be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

73. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Out of Hours Service in Richmond & Catterick – following a meeting of the Task Group established at the previous meeting a formal response had been sent to Richmondshire District Council and a copy circulated to Members.
- Mini Referendum to Name New Hospital In Selby – The primary care trust was inviting people to vote on two options to name the new hospital in Selby. The Chairman had responded to a letter from a resident objecting to both options. The Chairman invited the primary care trust to consider a third option retention of the original name.

- Health & Social Care Reform Bill – The Chairman undertook to keep the Committee informed of further announcements surrounding the delay of the Bill.

74. PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR STATEMENTS

There were no questions or statements from Members of public concerning issues not on the agenda.

RESOLVED –

That those members of the public present at the meeting who wished to speak on items listed on the agenda would be invited to do so during consideration of the relevant item.

75. UPDATE ON TRANSFORMING COMMUNITY SERVICES: MENTAL HEALTH, LEARNING DISABILITIES AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE PROCUREMENT

CONSIDERED –

The report of Bryon Hunter, Scrutiny Team Leader updating the Committee on implementation of the initiative under which hospital trusts as from 1 April 2011 took over responsibility for community services from the Primary Care Trust.

The Committee was advised that the contracts with Airedale NHS Foundation Trust, Harrogate & District NHS Foundation Trust and York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust were now complete. The remaining contract with South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust was due to complete later that day. With regard to the timetable for the transfer of Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Substance Misuse this remained as described in the report.

A Member commended the work done by Northumberland Tyne & Wear NHS Foundation Trust on information prescriptions and was advised that officers were aware of the pilot.

Assurances were given that the transfer of community services would not delay the flow of patient information. The only issue still to be resolved concerning IT related to asset management and ownership of the estate.

The Committee welcomed the launch of the new North Yorkshire Substance Misuse Partnership Board in response to criticisms about its predecessor the Drugs and Alcohol Action Team.

Members noted that Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust was likely to be re-branded following the transfer of mental health services in June 2011 to reflect its new boundaries.

RESOLVED –

That the information in the report and provided at the meeting be noted.

76. RYEDALE AND WHITBY ENHANCED COMMUNITY SERVICES PILOTS

County Councillor Joe Plant declared a personal interest in the following item as he was a member of Whitby Hospital Action Group (WHAG).

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Scrutiny Team Leader on progress of the enhanced community services pilots in Ryedale and Whitby. A copy of the report by the National Clinical Advisory Team (NCAT) was tabled at the meeting.

The item was introduced by Sue Metcalfe, Deputy Chief Executive, NHS North Yorkshire & York who said the findings of NCAT were on the whole complementary however she acknowledged that one of the recommendations called for the development of a strategic vision for the two community hospitals at Malton and Whitby.

Sue Metcalfe, advised the Committee that a primary care trust sub group that included local GPs had met the previous day to discuss the findings of the NCAT report. At that meeting two options had been discussed namely:-

- Both community hospitals to return to their pre-pilot configuration.
- To maintain the clinical model being piloted and re-open some beds which would allow a night nursing service to continue whilst a strategic vision for the two community hospitals is developed.

It was reported that after much discussion the sub-group had agreed to recommend to the PCT Board the second option. Both the findings of the NCAT report and recommendation of the sub-group were due to be discussed at a meeting of Board of NHS North Yorkshire and York on 26 April 2011.

The Chairman said he would be present at the meeting of the Board and invited feedback from Members to relay to Board Members.

Members of the Committee expressed strong support for the findings of the NCAT report which they said reinforced what the public had been saying for a long time. Reference was made to a letter sent by Robert Goodwill MP and comments made by the Health Minister, Simon Burns during a recent visit urging the primary care trust to immediately re-open hospital beds at Whitby and Malton.

The Committee was advised that the Primary Care Trust before making a decision wanted to know the view of clinicians which was why the sub-group had met the previous day. Ultimately the final decision rested with the Board. A report presenting all the options would be discussed as mentioned previously at the Board meeting on 26 April 2011.

The Chairman commented that the NCAT recommendations about Whitby and Malton Community Hospitals could be applied to all community hospitals. Sue Metcalfe replied that this was a reasonable assumption to make.

Members enquired if there was a timetable for the development of the strategic vision and were advised that it was anticipated it would take approximately three months to complete. A copy of the strategic vision would be made available to Members when available.

The Primary Care Trust was urged to take into consideration the affect of planning applications for large scale residential development in the Malton Area.

The Scrutiny Team Leader agreed to circulate to Members of the Committee details of the Board meeting on 26 April 2011.

The Chairman reminded Members that the venue for the June meeting of the Committee was Malton when one of the main items on the agenda would give Members an opportunity to contribute to the development of the strategic vision.

RESOLVED –

That developments with regard to the Enhanced Community Service pilots in Whitby and Ryedale be noted.

That the Scrutiny of Health Committee recommends the Primary Care Trust to reinstate Whitby & Malton Community Hospitals to their pre-pilot configuration, with two wards open at each of the community hospitals.

That NHS NY&Y be asked to give an assurance that, in the event of any significant and permanent change being proposed as a result of the pilots, the Scrutiny of Health Committee will be consulted.

77. YORKSHIRE AMBULANCE SERVICE – QUALITY ACCOUNT 2010-11

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Scrutiny Team Leader inviting the Committee to comment on the content of the 2010/11 Quality Account of Yorkshire Ambulance Service. Quality Accounts being annual reports to the public from NHS providers of healthcare, on the quality of the healthcare services they provide.

A Member commented that staff morale within the Service was very low and was concerned about the effect of this on service provision. He tabled a written statement in which he questioned the efficiency of the Service and its management structure and quoted specific examples to highlight the points he made. The Chairman said that some of the points raised in the statement fell outside the remit of the Committee, whilst others would require an investigation before an answer could be provided. On behalf of Yorkshire Ambulance Service, Helen Hugill agreed to provide a detailed response to the statement outside of the meeting.

The remaining Members of the Committee raised no significant concerns with the content of the Quality Account and congratulated the Service on improved response times in Hambleton and Richmondshire.

Several Members commented on the need to review and improve the Patient Transfer Service.

RESOLVED –

That authority is delegated to the Chairman to submit a formal response on behalf of the Committee to the 2010/11 Quality Account of Yorkshire Ambulance Service and that Members of the Committee be given an opportunity to comment on the draft response before it is submitted.

78. REVIEW OF CHILDREN'S CONGENITAL HEART SERVICES IN ENGLAND

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Scrutiny Team Leader on the national review of Children's Congenital Heart Services in England.

The review was led by the Safe and Sustainable Review Team at NHS Specialised Services on behalf of the ten specialist commissioning groups in England and their

constituent local Primary Care Trusts. Advances in technology and increasingly sophisticated procedures meant it was appropriate to review the size, location and number of centres performing children's heart surgery to ensure that all children had equal access to the highest standards of care.

The Committee was advised that the NHS had launched a four month consultation that was due to end on 1 July 2011. Under the consultation four options had been proposed for the future delivery of the service. The proposed options had a special significance for North Yorkshire as the hospitals in Leeds and Newcastle that currently performed the surgery were unlikely to both be retained. Patient flows indicated that if both hospitals were retained they each would not achieve the minimum number of required patients. Consequently three of the four options proposed the retention of the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle at the expense of Leeds General Hospital whilst the fourth option proposed the retention of Leeds General Hospital at the expense of the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle.

The Chairman briefed the Committee on his attendance at a meeting of the Yorkshire and Humber Joint Committee. He said that North Yorkshire was unique because its size meant that residents living in the north of the county would look to Newcastle, whilst those living in the south would look to Leeds. Population density was sparser in the north and his view was that the joint committee would seek to save Leeds General Hospital. He said that the joint committee had requested an extension in order to receive further information on patient numbers. He said that the joint committee was not opposed to the inclusion of the Freeman Hospital and suggested option D including Newcastle as a possible solution. This would result in seven surgical centres the same number as was proposed in two of the other options. He stressed the complexity and sensitivity of the negotiations and invited the views of Members of the Committee.

A Member said Leeds General Hospital had the advantage unlike Newcastle of operating from a single site and had excellent transport links. Leeds also served a bigger population with higher birth rates.

The need to make savings was suggested as motivation for a final decision favouring those options with a reduced number of surgical centres. It was pointed out that Option A included both Leicester and Birmingham that were relatively close to one another albeit with large populations.

The majority of Members expressed support for Option D with the inclusion of Newcastle on the grounds that it took account of the rural nature of North Yorkshire.

The Chairman agreed to formally recommend to the joint committee approval of option D with the inclusion of Newcastle. The Chairman undertook to keep the Committee informed of progress of the review.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That County Councillor Jim Clark is confirmed as the representative from the North Yorkshire Scrutiny of Health Committee on the Yorkshire and the Humber Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- (b) That North Yorkshire Scrutiny of Health Committee recommends approval of option D with the inclusion of Newcastle to the Yorkshire and Humber Joint Committee.
- (c) That the Chairman of the North Yorkshire Scrutiny of Health Committee writes a letter indicating the Committee's support for option D with the inclusion of Newcastle to the North East Joint Committee.

79. WORK PROGRAMME

CONSIDERED –

The report of Bryon Hunter, Scrutiny Team Leader inviting Members to comment on and approve the content of the Committee's future work programme.

The Scrutiny Team Leader agreed to invite GP's from Whitby and Malton to attend the June meeting of the Committee for the item on 'enhanced community services pilots in Ryedale and Whitby'.

The Committee was informed that the date of the North Yorkshire Review of Health Services workshop had been changed since publication of the agenda papers. The new date was 20 May 2011 and not 27 May 2011 as stated in the report. The Scrutiny Team Leader said that following the meeting he would write to Members to confirm the new date and arrangements for the workshop.

The Committee agreed to comment on the Quality Accounts from the following Trusts:-

- Scarborough & North East Yorkshire NHS Trust.
- South Tees Hospital Foundation NHS Trust.
- Harrogate and District Foundation NHS Trust.

RESOLVED –

That the content of the Work Programme is approved subject to the comments recorded in the minutes.

That the Chairman be delegated authority to submit a formal response to the Quality Account from:-

- Scarborough & North East Yorkshire NHS Trust.
- South Tees Hospital Foundation NHS Trust.
- Harrogate and District Foundation NHS Trust.

The meeting concluded at 12.20 pm.

JW/JD/ALJ