

## North Yorkshire County Council

### Scrutiny of Health Committee

Minutes of the meeting held at County Hall, Northallerton on 1 June 2012, commencing at 10.00 am.

**Present:-**

County Councillor Jim Clark (Chairman).

County Councillors:-Val Arnold, Andrew Backhouse, John Clark, Polly English, Andrew Goss, Mike Knaggs, Margaret Hulme, Jane Kenyon (substitute for Shelagh Marshall), Heather Moorhouse and Chris Pearson.

District Council Members: - Ian Galloway (Harrogate), Shirley Shepherd (Hambleton), Tony Pelton (Richmondshire), Elizabeth Shields (substitute for John Raper Ryedale), James Preston (Scarborough), John Roberts (Craven) and Kay McSherry (Selby).

In attendance:- Executive Member County Councillor Clare Wood and District Councillor Jane Mortimer (Scarborough).

Officers: Seamus Breen (Health & Adult Services), Bryon Hunter (Scrutiny Team Leader), Jane Wilkinson (Legal and Democratic Services).

**Present by Invitation:**

Scarborough & North East Yorkshire Healthcare NHS Trust – Mike Proctor.

Ryedale CVS – Andrea Hobbs & Claire Hall.

South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust – Jill Moulton.

NHS North Yorkshire & York – Dr David Geddes & Gill Fox.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of County Councillors John Blackie and Shelagh Marshall and District Councillor John Raper (Ryedale).

One member of the press in attendance.

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**Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book**

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**123. Minutes**

**Resolved**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2012 be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**124. Chairman's Announcements**

- Dementia Services In Harrogate & Ripon – Meeting arranged between representatives of service users, Dementia Forward, North Yorkshire County Council, Primary Care Trust and Tees Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust to discuss concerns raised at the previous meeting. The outcome to be reported to the September meeting.

- Children's & Paediatric Services at Friarage Hospital, Northallerton – Jill Moulton updated the Committee on progress of the public engagement and associated visits to hospitals. Results to be collated and circulated at the end of June. The Chairman reported that the public protest march and rally held at the weekend had been very well attended.
- Mental Health: Hospital Services for Adults & Older People In Airedale Bradford & Craven – The written response dated 25 May 2012 of the Committee to the consultation was tabled at the meeting. A copy of the letter was placed in the Minute Book.
- North Yorkshire Review Update - Issue No 3 in the series of regular updates was tabled at the meeting and a copy placed in the Minute Book.

## 125. Public Questions or Statements

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

## 126. Merger of the Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Healthcare NHS Trust and York Hospitals

***District Councillor Shirley Shepherd (Hambleton) declared a personal interest in the following item being an employee of Scarborough & North East Yorkshire Healthcare NHS Trust.***

Considered –

The covering report of Bryon Hunter, Scrutiny Team Leader on the acquisition of Scarborough Trust by York Trust.

The meeting was attended by Mike Proctor, Interim Chief Executive, SNEY NHS Trust who described the latest position. He said that work on the acquisition had been in progress since the previous year and that the process was now drawing to a close. The acquisition had been approved by the Board of Scarborough Trust and at a meeting of York Trust held on 23 May 2012 the Board had approved the acquisition subject only to a couple of minor conditions.

Feedback from extensive public consultation carried out over nine months had been positive and the acquisition was on track to complete on 1 July 2012. The name of the new single organisation would be York Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. The new organisation would have a new management structure that would focus initially on service integration and ensuring that access to services remained local. Concerns that healthcare services would be relocated and centralised in York were unfounded as were fears that large numbers of patients would have to travel to York to receive treatment. Recruitment to the new structure was already underway and Mike Proctor confirmed that with effect from 1 July he would officially be appointed as the Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Chief Executive of the new organisation. Post acquisition a lot of work was needed to produce a single set of procedures for the new organisation as well as integrating IT and finance systems. Notwithstanding the challenges he faced Mike Proctor said he was optimistic and confident about the future.

In response to the presentation Members raised a number of questions.

County Councillor Jane Kenyon said that as a former member of the Board of Scarborough Trust she did not share Mike Proctor's optimism. She believed that in the not to distant future the East Coast would be vulnerable to the centralisation of

services in York. She referred to the historic debt of Scarborough Trust and enquired how it would be dealt with following the acquisition.

Mike Proctor replied that the national funding formula was not favourable to Scarborough which why the Trust had always been subsidised. Some of the Scarborough estate was in a very poor state of repair and not fit for purpose. For this reason the new Trust had been awarded capital funding of £25M over five years to address some of the problems on the site. This level of support was unprecedented nationally and a phased programme of works was being drawn up. With regard to the historic debt he was not familiar with the detail of how exactly it had been processed but stressed that the acquisition of Scarborough Trust by York Trust did not include acceptance of a legacy debt.

County Councillor Jane Kenyon said she was not satisfied with the response she had been given. County Councillor Kenyon was worried that at some point in the future Scarborough's historic debt would be recalled and would have to be repaid which would have an adverse impact on east coast healthcare services. County Councillor Kenyon called for full disclosure about how the historic debt had been dealt with.

The Chairman said that following the meeting he would seek clarification of the position and report his findings to Members.

In response to comments about the need for another doctors surgery in Malton Mike Proctor said that he would be sympathetic to any requests from GPs for accommodation at Malton Hospital.

It was reported that the position regarding the operating theatres at Whitby and Malton Hospitals, was that the amount of investment needed to make both theatres safe to carry out a full range of operating procedures could not be justified in the present economic climate. Mike Proctor had requested a senior clinician from York Hospital to review the types of procedures that could be safely performed without any significant investment being required.

With regard to the work and awaited report on the vision for future services at Whitby Hospital the Chairman said that following the meeting held with stakeholders in January a further meeting was arranged for 12 June. At that meeting he anticipated plans for the future of Whitby Hospital would be revealed. Local Members said within the community there remained a lot of uncertainty and concern about the future of Whitby Hospital. Any further delay in the announcement of proposals concerning its future would they said be viewed with suspicion. The Chairman agreed to circulate to Members copies of any papers he received for the meeting on 12 June.

Mike Proctor pointed out that once the acquisition was complete members of the new combined foundation trust would have more say about how it was run. There would be increased democratic accountability and elections for the appointment of governors were scheduled to take place at the end of the Summer.

The Chairman thanked Mike Proctor for his attendance and the information he had provided. He said the challenge the new Trust faced was to ensure that the level of available funding was adequate to meet the needs of commissioners. The Committee would he said continue to monitor the situation.

#### **Resolved –**

That the progress reported at the meeting towards acquisition of Scarborough Trust by York Trust be noted.

## **127. Access to Health Care in Ryedale**

Considered –

The report of the Scrutiny Team Leader updating the Committee on work of a scrutiny task group appointed to look at whether or not there were examples of good practice with regard to community transport in North Yorkshire that could help overcome problems in Ryedale. The Committee was informed that the task group's work had been put on hold pending the outcome of a survey being conducted by Ryedale Voluntary Action (RVA). The survey of patients via GPs and was in addition to their original report on Access To Health Care In Ryedale which had led to the task group being appointed.

The meeting was attended by Andrea Hobbs, Chief Officer and Claire Hall, Projects & Partnerships Manager at Ryedale CVS. Together they presented to the Committee the findings of the survey. A copy of the Final Evaluation report was attached to the agenda. It was reported that as a result of the original project and the survey there was now much greater awareness of community transport and relationships with GP practices had much improved. Whilst the majority of patients did not have a problem in accessing healthcare services for a minority of patients it remained a significant problem. The Committee noted that as the project had been awarded limited funding additional income would have to be secured if the work was to be progressed any further.

Members commended the work that had been done to date and suggested that greater promotion was needed of the services that were available.

The Committee was informed that a bid for further funding for the 'Healthy Living Project' was being prepared. Executive Member County Councillor Clare Wood said that the County Council's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment had identified accessibility to services as being a problem. With regard to preparation of the bid she suggested that RVA make an appointment with the fund holder to seek detailed feedback on how to improve the bid in the next funding round. She also suggested that collaboration with relevant CCGs would be helpful and that appointments be made to speak with them.

County Councillor Val Arnold offered her support to help continue with the project.

Members suggested that local newspapers be contacted with a view to advertising the services currently available.

The Chairman said that the scrutiny task group would continue to liaise with Ryedale Voluntary Action with a view to preparing a report for consideration by the Shadow Health & Well Being Board. The report would cover how problems with community transport in Ryedale had been tackled so that the lessons learnt could be rolled out across the County.

**Resolved –**

That the content of the joint report 'Access to Health – Final Evaluation' by Ryedale Voluntary Action and Ryedale Community Transport be noted.

## **128. Criteria Based Commissioning in NHS North Yorkshire and York**

Considered –

The covering report of Bryon Hunter, Scrutiny Team Leader on the background to criteria based commissioning in NHS North Yorkshire & York. Tabled at the meeting

was a report on the operation of the Individual Funding Request Panel in North Yorkshire.

The meeting was attended by Dr David Geddes, Medical Director and Director of Primary Care and Gill Fox, Senior Commissioning Manager NHS North Yorkshire & York. The Committee was given a detailed explanation of the process and circumstances whereby a patient was able to request treatment that was not routinely available on the NHS. A breakdown of the membership of the Panel was also provided.

Members noted that the Panel which covered the whole of North Yorkshire and the Humber met on a weekly basis. There was an appeals process for unsuccessful patients as well as a procedure for dealing with urgent requests. Members were advised that changes to NHS funding meant that future responsibility for administration of the Panel would transfer from the Primary Care Trust to Clinical Commissioning Groups.

County Councillor John Clark asked if in the move towards smaller commissioning units would mean any measures would be put in place in North Yorkshire to ensure that there was a consistent approach to procedures that were routinely available across the Country. He had heard for example of Primary Care Trusts with different approaches to cataract surgery and wondered if such variations would exist between CCGs covering North Yorkshire. He also asked if in the current arrangements the range of procedures that were commissioned changed during the year dependent upon the NHS NY&Y's projected budget situation at the end of the year and what if any arrangements were being put in place for when CCGs took over. Finally he asked what plans were being put in place for patient choice when CCGs were properly established. Would patients for example be able to choose to register with GPs dependent on the procedures the GPs routinely commissioned. If patients were able to swap and change their GP would this make the whole system difficult to manage.

Dr David Geddes said he would supply a written detailed response to County Councillor Clarke's questions following the meeting.

## **NOTED**

### **129. Work Programme**

Considered –

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

Members were informed that the venue for the September meeting was likely to be either Ripon or Harrogate in view of the provisional agenda items.

Members were also informed there was a possibility that the engagement event planned for 21 June on paediatric/maternity services at the Friarage Hospital may not go ahead as this was the same date doctors were due to take industrial action. The Scrutiny Team Leader said he would contact Members following the meeting to confirm whether or not the event would still go ahead as planned.

## **Resolved –**

That the content of the work programme and the comments made during the meeting be noted.

The meeting concluded at 12.10 pm.

JW/JD