

North Yorkshire County Council

Scrutiny of Health Committee

Minutes of the meeting held at the Cairn Hotel, Harrogate on 8 February 2013, commencing at 10.00 am.

Present:-

County Councillor Jim Clark (Chairman).

County Councillors:-Val Arnold, John Clark, Polly English, Andrew Goss, Margaret Hulme, John McCartney, Shelagh Marshall, Heather Moorhouse and Chris Pearson.

District Council Members: - Ian Galloway (Harrogate), Elizabeth Shields substitute for John Raper (Ryedale), Jane Mortimer (Scarborough) and Kay McSherry (Selby).

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

In attendance Executive Member County Councillor Clare Wood and County Councillor Bernard Bateman and Harrogate District Councillor Skidmore.

Present by invitation:

Tees Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust – Adele Coulthard

NHS NY&Y Primary Care Trust – George Lee

Harrogate & Rural District Clinical Commissioning Group – Dr Richard Sweeney & Bernard Chalk

Harrogate & District NHS Foundation Trust – Janet Probert and Angela Monaghan

Scarborough & Ryedale Clinical Commissioning Group – Simon Cox

Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group – Debbie Newton

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of County Councillors John Blackie and Mike Knaggs and District Councillors John Roberts (Craven) and John Raper (Ryedale).

In attendance four members of the press and public.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

150. Minutes

Resolved

That the Minutes of the meetings held on 9 November 2012 and 22 November 2012 be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

151. Chairman's Announcements

- Children's & Maternity Services, Friarage Hospital, Northallerton – Letter received from the Secretary of State for Health advising that the Independent Reconfiguration Panel are to undertake an initial review of the referral by the Committee. IRP to report back to the Secretary of State by no later than 22 February 2013.

- National Review of Children’s Cardiac Surgery – On 29 January 2013 the Chairman along with other members of the Yorkshire & Humber Joint Scrutiny Committee gave evidence to the IRP for retention of the Leeds unit. The evidence presented emphasised that there was a strong case to retain both the Leeds and Newcastle units. Members of the IRP had commented on the quality of the evidence presented by the Joint Scrutiny Committee. The IRP were due to report back to the Secretary of State by 28 March 2013. In a separate development Judicial Review proceedings instigated by the “Save our Surgery” charity were due to commence soon.
- Francis Report on the Public Enquiry into The Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust – Certain recommendations in the report published on 6 February 2013 would need to be considered as part of the work programme of the Committee. The report criticised certain aspects of health scrutiny and the Chairman said he intended to refer to that in his statement to County Council on 20 February that would also include assurances that the criticisms applied to Stafford do not apply in North Yorkshire.

152. Public Questions or Statements

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

Resolved

That the requirement to give three days notice is waived and those Members of the public present at the meeting who wish to speak on items listed on the agenda would be invited to do so during consideration of that item.

153. Mental Health Services for Older People in the Harrogate Area

Considered –

The report of the Scrutiny Team Leader asking the Committee to agree its response to proposals for mental health services for older people in the Harrogate area, and in particular on plans for in-patient services currently provided at Alexander House in Knaresborough for older people with dementia.

Under the proposals in-patient beds at Alexander House would close. Alexander House would instead become a base for community teams and services that would include memory clinics. In the short term Alexander House would provide accommodation for a small number of patients from Malton whilst a specialist in-patient unit for the whole of North Yorkshire was built on the Malton Hospital site. This new facility would provide care for older people with dementia who had complex and challenging needs.

At a previous meeting of the Committee, Members had conditionally supported plans to conduct public engagement on the proposals. The results of public engagement that had taken place between 10 September 2012 and 21 January 2013 were set out in the accompanying report. Present at the meeting were Adele Coulthard (Director of Operations – North Yorkshire Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust), George Lee (Snr Commissioning Manager NHS North Yorkshire & York) and Dr Richard Sweeny (Clinical Lead for Harrogate & Rural District Clinical Commissioning Group) who summarised the events that had taken place and the responses received. In response to requests made an additional two additional meetings had been held one of which fell outside the formal engagement period. The Committee

was advised that whilst a lot of the feedback that had been received related to mental health services for older people in general it had nevertheless been a very useful exercise.

The Chairman stated that he had chaired four of the local meetings but had been unable to attend the additional meeting held the previous week for carers and asked for feedback from that meeting.

Adele Coulthard replied that the meeting had been attended by 15/16 people and had been very frank. Approximately 90% of their comments related to the Carers Strategy for the whole of North Yorkshire. Issues raised included the need to improve how carers are identified and supported and how they could be used more actively. Carers had said they wanted their voice to be heard at both local and national levels and for greater understanding of their needs. She confirmed that following the meeting she had dealt with a small number of specific concerns relating to the quality of and delays in existing services. Also discussed were cross boundary issues pertaining to receipt of social care assessments for a small number of people who lived in West Yorkshire but who accessed services in North Yorkshire. She had brought this to the attention of officers at the County Council who had agreed to raise the matter with their counter-parts in Leeds.

On behalf of the County Council Seamus Breen (Assistant Director Health Reform and Development) acknowledged the need to support carers during this period of transformation of service delivery. He gave assurances to Members that the cross boundary issues identified would be followed up and that steps would be taken to bring about clarity of care-pathways.

Local Member District Councillor, Ian Galloway said that within the Harrogate area it was not uncommon for younger members of a family to move away and asked how this lack of family support would be dealt with.

The Committee was advised that the care market in Harrogate was the biggest in the county. Currently in operation was a strong carers network and resource centre that were supplemented by a variety of voluntary organisation providing support. The challenge was how to make people aware of the services already available and to strengthen information systems so as to achieve this.

Based on his own observations of the four meetings he had chaired the Chairman then listed the main areas of concern:-

- Lack of service integration between the County Council, the Clinical Commissioning Group, voluntary sector and Harrogate & District NHS Foundation Trust. In his view service integration was imperative if what was proposed was to succeed.
- Lack of respite care provision,
- The poor physical condition of Rowan Ward at Harrogate Hospital not being fit for what was being proposed.

The Chairman added that on a visit to Cross Lane at Scarborough he had been very impressed with both the facilities and the quality of care given to patients. He hoped that in time similar facilities would be replicated across the county.

The Committee was advised that architects had already visited Rowan Ward and were in the process of drawing up plans for improvements that totalled £350,000. The planned improvements included the creation of single bedrooms with a wash basin (not ensuite) and an upgrade of the decor and flooring. The Foundation Trust said it would be willing to provide a report in twelve months time inviting the

Committee to contribute to design aspects of the improvements. The Committee welcomed on-going involvement in the implementation phase of the proposals.

County Councillor Polly English said the improvements being proposed did not comply with guidelines issued by NICE which stipulated that separate wards were required for different age groups. Adele Coulthard acknowledged that there was tension between the changing Guidelines issued by NICE and guidance from the Royal College of Psychiatrists. She assured the Committee that this would be addressed as the project progressed.

Members said they were satisfied that the engagement process had been conducted in line with the plan previously considered by the Committee. Members were supportive in principle of the proposals to reduce in-patient beds but only on the condition that new community based services would be put in place and a more integrated "whole system" approach developed to replace the beds being lost. Members said it was essential that commissioners and providers of health & social care worked together and greater emphasis was placed on the provision of prevention services. A Member suggested that Registered Social Landlords were added to the list of partners and it was confirmed that they were already represented on the Mental Health Strategy Group.

Resolved –

- (a) That the North Yorkshire Scrutiny of Health Committee is satisfied that public engagement has been provided in line with the plan shared with Members on the 18 August 2012.
- (b) That the North Yorkshire Scrutiny of Health Committee supports in principle the proposals to improve mental health services for older people in the Harrogate Area provided that all parties including commissioners and providers in the public private and voluntary sector work together to deliver excellent services with greater emphasis on prevention for those with dementia.
- (c) That a further report on implementation of the proposals be referred to the Committee in 12 months' time.

154. Harrogate Dementia Collaborative

Considered –

The report of Bryon Hunter, Scrutiny Team Leader briefing the Committee on the development of a Dementia Collaborative in the Harrogate area.

Led by the Chief Executives of providers and commissioners of health and social care in the Harrogate area the Collaborative aimed to address priorities highlighted in the local dementia strategy. The organisations had all made a commitment to work together and used workshops as a means of identifying waste and suggesting improvements. The workshops involved staff from every organisation in the Collaborative who met with stakeholders such as patient voice, carers and the voluntary sector to bring about improvements to people living with dementia.

Janet Probert, Director of Partnerships and Innovation Harrogate & District NHS Foundation Trust and Adele Coulthard, Director of Operations at Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust gave a joint presentation to the Committee that described the work done to date and improvements implemented as a result. Practical examples of some of the improvements introduced as a result of the workshops were outlined at the meeting. The rapid benefits of a collaborative

process were highlighted to Members. Suggested improvements once tested were often implemented within a week. Many of the changes whilst of a minor nature had a dramatic affects, such as drastically decreased waiting times. Feedback from staff was positive stating that the workplace was now calmer and a nicer place to work in.

The Committee noted that the outcome of a bid for monies from the Department of Health to carry out improvements at a further 54 sites would not be known until the end of February 2013. Future plans included hosting further improvement events and publishing the results of the Collaborative. Members were informed that innovative training events for carers were being planned by the voluntary sector covering topics such as awareness of issues surrounding the use of colour and personal grooming.

Members congratulated all those involved on the project's overwhelming success. The presentation and report were extremely uplifting and they hoped that similar projects could be rolled out across the county. If repeated Members recommended that the same methodology was applied as had been used in Harrogate as they considered it important for staff and stakeholders to benefit from the experience of undergoing the process for themselves even if they reached the same conclusions as those in Harrogate.

The Executive Member, County Councillor Clare Wood said the County Council was proud to be a partner in the Harrogate Collaborative. The project was a clear example of service integration and highlighted the real progress that had been made in this area. Along with the previous item it demonstrated a commitment to improve services for people with dementia across the Harrogate area. The Francis report published the previous week had criticised the use of targets and leadership at mid-Staffordshire both of which were in direct contrast to what had been presented that day. Here targets had enabled the effectiveness of improvements to be measured and leadership was energetic and dynamic. The County Council would she said be delighted to be involved in extending the project to other areas of the county.

The Committee was advised that York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Scarborough & Ryedale Clinical Commissioning Group had expressed an interest in the project.

On behalf of Scarborough & Ryedale Clinical Commissioning Group, Simon Cox confirmed that the first steps towards replicating the project were already underway and that it was a priority for the CCG. He confirmed that the CCG was planning to use the same process as had been used at Harrogate.

The Chairman commented that it was good to see the needs of the patient being put first. The project was not concerned with complex medicine, but focussed on patient care and dignity. On behalf of the Committee he looked forward to receiving further progress reports at future meetings.

Resolved –

That the content of the report and the information provided at the meeting be noted.

That a further report on progress of the project be referred to the Committee in due course.

155. Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust – Quality Account 2012/13

Considered –

The report of Bryon Hunter, Scrutiny Team Leader inviting the Committee to comment on the draft quality priorities selected as part of the Trust's Quality Account for 2012/13. Quality Accounts being annual reports to the public from NHS providers of healthcare on the quality of the healthcare services they provide. As part of the formal assurance process the Committee had been asked to provide a comment for inclusion in the Quality Account for 2012/13.

A list of the draft priorities identified for 2012/13 was included in the accompanying report. Also attached was a copy of the comment provided by the Committee the previous year.

The meeting was attended by Angela Monaghan, Chief Nurse Harrogate & District NHS Foundation Trust who was responsible for compiling the 2012/13 Quality Account. She said that the recommendations in the Francis report highlighted the importance of Quality Accounts to both the public and effective scrutiny systems before she invited the Committee to comment on the draft priorities identified in the report. She also welcomed any suggestions Members may have for new priorities they would like to see included.

The Chairman then invited County Councillor Bernard Bateman to address the Committee.

County Councillor Bateman highlighted the importance of the work being led by Janet Probert, Director of Partnerships and Innovation Harrogate & District NHS Foundation Trust to develop a vision for the future sustainability of Ripon Community Hospital. He said that Ripon Community Hospital was highly valued by the local community and emphasised that accessibility was a valuable contributor to the overall quality of the services provided by the Trust. The Committee was assured that Ripon Community Hospital was at the heart of plans of plans being developed by the Trust for future service delivery. Recently staffing levels on Trinity Ward at the Hospital had been increased which demonstrated the Trust's commitment to the Hospital. .

The Chairman referred to recent press coverage surrounding the use of the Liverpool Care Pathway and asked the Trust to comment.

Angela Monaghan said that the Trust was supportive of the Liverpool Care Pathway and described circumstances when it was used. Members were reassured that food and hydration would not be withheld if a patient showed signs of recovery.

County Councillor John Clark made reference to the Francis report and asked how complaints made by patients and their families about the quality of the service they received were linked to the priorities in the quality account about improving fundamental care and patient experience.

The Committee was advised that the content of the Quality Account required the production of hard facts. Assurances were given that senior staff did monitor patient experience but it was acknowledged that the format of the Quality Account meant that there were limited opportunities to include areas such hydration and nutrition. Further information on these and other aspects of patient care could be supplied if requested.

In summing up, the Chairman said the Committee broadly supported the priorities identified in the report but said that there should be a strong emphasis on ensuring that End of Life Care and the provision of Fundamental Care takes account of complaints and other feedback received from patients and family members.

Members delegated authority to the Chairman to comment on the quality priorities for the HDFT Quality Account 2012/13.

Resolved –

That authority is delegated to the Chairman to respond on behalf of the Committee to the quality priorities for the HDFT Quality Account 2012/13.

That such response take account of the comments made at the meeting and recorded in the Minutes.

156. North Yorkshire and York Clinical Services Review

Considered –

The covering report of Bryon Hunter, Scrutiny Team Leader inviting the Committee to agree its position with regard to implementation of the North Yorkshire and York Clinical Services Review. Attached to the report was a report facilitated by KPMG outlining the 'next phase' that had been presented to the January meeting of the Board of NHS North Yorkshire & York.

The covering report suggested that the Committee would have a key role over the coming months in:-

- Contributing to the development of the CCG's outline plans
- Playing a part in the CCG's engagement with the public
- Advising on the development of proposals, including reaching agreement with CCGs on those proposals on which the Committee will be formally consulted

Representing North Yorkshire CCGs and present at the meeting were Simon Cox (Scarborough & Ryedale CCG), Debbie Newton (Hambleton, Richmondshire & Whitby) and Bernard Chalk (Harrogate & Rural District CCG).

In broad terms the Committee was advised that CCGs would be seeking the approval of their Boards to proposals in their locality and Outline Plans by the end of March 2013. They confirmed that details of specific proposals would emerge over the course of the coming weeks following discussions with partners some of whom were outside the boundaries of North Yorkshire. CCGs were drawing up plans to consult collaboratively with the Committee, and the public over the course of the next 2/3 months. They gave assurances that no changes would be introduced without consultation first having taken place. CCGs said they saw the Health & Well Being Board as being the driver of service transformation and the integration of health and social care key to achieving the savings required.

Members sought reassurance about the future of community hospitals in North Yorkshire. The Committee was advised that whilst there were no recommendations to close any of the units, the services they currently provided were under review and it was likely their role would change.

The Chairman said the Committee was keen to establish a constructive dialogue with each of the CCGs in North Yorkshire. He was encouraged by their attendance at the meeting that day and looked forward to receiving the details of their Outline Plans in due course.

Members supported the future role of the committee as identified in the report and gave a commitment to working with CCGs in the future.

Resolved –

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

157. 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.

In his presentation of the report Bryon Hunter highlighted the following potential items for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting of the Committee on 5 April 2012:-

- Children's & Maternity Services Friarage Hospital, Northallerton
- Mid Yorkshire Trust – Clinical Services Strategy

Members noted that the venue for the April meeting was likely to be County Hall, Northallerton.

Resolved –

That the work programme be received and agreed as printed including the suggestions made at the meeting and recorded in the Minutes.

The meeting concluded at 12.45 pm

JW/ALJ