

North Yorkshire County Council

Scrutiny of Health Committee

Minutes of the meeting held at County Hall, Northallerton on 6 September 2013, commencing at 10.00 am.

Present:

County Councillor Jim Clark (Chairman).

County Councillors:- Val Arnold, Phil Barrett, David Billing, Elizabeth Casling, John Clark Polly English, Shelagh Marshall, Heather Moorhouse, Chris Pearson, David Simister and Cliff Trotter (substitute for John Ennis).

District Council Members:- Ken Billings (Hambleton), Kay McSherry (Selby), Elizabeth Shields (substitute for John Raper, Ryedale), Jane Mortimer (Scarborough), John Roberts (Craven), Tony Pelton (Richmondshire) and Ian Galloway (Harrogate).

Officers:- Bryon Hunter (Scrutiny Team Leader), Jane Wilkinson (Legal & Democratic Services), Ann Marie Lubanski (Health & Adult Services).

In attendance

Executive Members County Councillors Clare Wood and Don MacKenzie.

Richmondshire District Council – Penny Hillary (Scrutiny Officer) and Cllr Robinson.

South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust – Jill Moulton.

Hambleton, Richmondshire & Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group – Dr Vicky Pleydell.

Harrogate & District NHS Foundation Trust – Janet Probert, Michael Bewell and Belinda Good.

Yorkshire Ambulance Service – Helen Hugill.

Tees Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust – Adele Coulthard.

NHS England (NY & H Local Area Team) – Julie Warren.

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor John Ennis and District Councillor John Raper (Ryedale).

In attendance four members of the public.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

9. Minutes

Resolved

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2013 be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

10. Chairman's Announcements

- Children's Cardiac Services – Following the decision of the Secretary of state to call a halt to the review of Children's Cardiac Surgery, NHS England were to examine the whole lifetime pathway of care for people with congenital heart disease. Details of specific consultation options were still awaited.

- Chief Inspector of Hospitals – The Care Quality Commission had set up a new system of hospital inspections. The work would be led by Professor Sir Mike Richards. The first wave of hospitals to be assessed included Harrogate & Airedale Hospitals. A public event for Airedale Hospital was scheduled for Thursday 19 September 6.30 pm at Victoria Hall. Details of a similar event for Harrogate Hospital were still awaited.
- NHS Friends & Family Test – As from 1 April 2013 NHS Trusts now publish monthly data on whether patients would recommend to friends and family the care and treatment they received. The same test is to be rolled out to other NHS Services including maternity, mental health and general practice by the end of March 2015.
- Healthwatch – Starting in 2014 'Healthwatch' is to be a standing item on all future agenda.

11. Public Questions or Statements

There were no public questions or statements from members of the public concerning issues not 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 will be invited to do so during consideration of that item.

12. Harrogate Dementia Collaborative

Considered –

The covering report of Bryon Hunter, Scrutiny Team Leader updating the Committee on the activities of the Harrogate Dementia Collaborative. Appended to the report was the end of Year 1 report of the Collaborative which described the methodologies used and project outcomes during the financial year 2012/13.

The Committee's interest in the project dated back to its meeting in February 2013 when Members had requested they be kept informed of development of the project. Led by Chief Executives of providers and commissioners of health and social care in the Harrogate area the Collaborative aimed to deliver large scale cross organisational change to improve the quality of services to people living with dementia.

Janet Probert, Director of Partnerships and Innovation at 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 of the Collaborative, the changes implemented and summarised how outcomes had improved. All changes were designed to address priorities highlighted in the Local and National Dementia Strategy. Members noted how the joint approach had resulted in waste being removed from the system and had addressed inefficient processes such as duplication and poor stock control. Waiting times had been reduced and communication channels improved. Feedback from staff and patients had been very positive and had indicated that the project in Year 2 needed to continue with the training programme and to raise awareness of the Collaborative and the Quality Improvement System. Members noted that funding for the project was due to end in March 2014.

Members endorsed the approach adopted and commended all those involved in the project on its overwhelming success. Members were keen to see the project

replicated across the county and received assurances that clinical commissioning groups in North Yorkshire had already expressed interest in taking it forward in their own areas.

As Craven area was served by a different mental health trust, County Councillor Shelagh Marshall called for a report on dementia care in Craven. This would enable Members to compare the quality of dementia services on offer across the whole of North Yorkshire.

County Councillor Polly English requested an update from Bradford District Care Trust in respect of the consultation undertaken a year ago on proposals surrounding the provision of in-patient and community mental health services. In particular the transfer of patients to Lynfield Mount Hospital in Bradford and whether transport was still being provided by the Trust for patients and their friends and families living in Craven.

In summing up the Chairman congratulated those involved on the progress achieved by the project and called for a further report on roll-out of the project across North Yorkshire in due course.

Resolved –

That the work taking place to improve services for people with dementia and their carers across Harrogate area be noted.

That a further report on the 'roll-out' across North Yorkshire of the Dementia Collaborative be referred to the Committee in due course.

13. Future Service Delivery In Ripon

Considered –

The briefing report of Janet Probert, Director of Partnerships & Innovation Harrogate & District NHS Foundation Trust on developments to integrate the delivery of hospital and community healthcare services and shape new models of care in the Ripon area.

In presenting her report Janet Probert gave an overview of each of the work-streams underway as part of the 'Healthy Ripon' programme. She described how discussions were on-going with partners about how to maximise the best use of the Ripon Hospital estate and agreed to keep the Committee informed of progress.

Members endorsed the changes made to the delivery of sexual health services for young people and supported the greater involvement and awareness of GPs in services at Ripon Hospital.

Members were appreciative of the efforts being made to maximise the benefits that could be offered by a community hospital and as in the previous item hoped that this good practice could be replicated across the whole of the county.

With the agreement of the Chairman a briefing note prepared by Adele Coulthard, Director of Operations at Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust was tabled at the meeting and a copy placed in the Minute Book. The briefing note updated the Committee on a number of mental health projects/developments around the county. In response to a request from Members, Adele Coulthard agreed to supply Bryon Hunter Scrutiny Team Leader with details of the opening dates of the Springwood Unit at Malton.

NOTED

Healthcare Services Commissioned by NHS England

County Councillor Polly English declared an interest in the following item as she received payment from Leeds & Partnership NHS Trust for her work as a Mental Health Act Manager.

Considered –

The covering report of Bryon Hunter, Scrutiny Team Leader describing healthcare services in North Yorkshire commissioned by NHS England.

In his introduction, Bryon Hunter said that a detailed discussion about the proposed withdrawal of the Minimum Practice Income Guarantee (MPIG) – a minimum payment to GPs was to be deferred until the November meeting to enable Mr Geoff Day, Head of Primary Care at NHS England to attend and respond to questions from Members. The proposed withdrawal of MPIG had attracted a good deal of concern across North Yorkshire in terms of the threat it could pose to the viability of small practices.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Dr Julian Fester of Egton Surgery addressed the Committee. Dr Fester stressed the implications for rural general practice surgeries of the removal of MPIG.

The Chairman said that the Committee took the matter seriously and had noted his comments and invited him to attend and contribute to the November meeting.

Also present at the meeting was Julie Warren, Director of Commissioning at NHS North Yorkshire & Humber. Julie Warren gave a presentation in which she summarised the range of mainly specialist services and primary care services commissioned by NHS England and the structure of the North of England NHS Regional Team. In the four months since NHS England had taken over responsibility for commissioning, some providers had been identified as being no longer fit for purpose. She warned this could impact on future service provision across the county and also informed Members that NHS England was planning a number of substantial service variations. She gave assurances to the Committee that these would be the subject of formal consultation when announced over the course of the next few months.

A Member commented that many hospital services were inter-dependent upon one another and that the withdrawal of a single service could have a 'knock-on' effect and lead to further closures. Julie Warren responded by saying that NHS England would adopt a considered approach and try wherever possible to maintain local provision.

The Chairman thanked Julie Warren for her attendance and the information she had imparted. He said that service variations when announced would be a key area of work for the Committee, whose approach would always be to put the needs of the patient first.

A Member enquired about the roll-out of the shingles vaccination and was advised that it was to be added to the adult programme for patients aged seventy. A catch up programme was also being implemented as from 1 September 2013 so that by 2022 the vaccine would only be offered to 70 year olds as the catch up element would then be complete.

Resolved –

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

15. Children's and Maternity Services at the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton

Considered –

The report of Bryon Hunter, Scrutiny Team Leader alerting the Committee to the launch of the formal consultation on children's & maternity services at the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton. The consultation was due to run from 2 September 2013 for 12 weeks closing on Monday 25 November 2013. Members attention was drawn to the details of a series of public meetings appended to the report.

The meeting was addressed by Dr Vicky Pleydell, Hambleton Richmondshire & Whitby CCG. She said that the consultation document outlined the case for change and the options being put forward. The consultation document had been drafted to make it an easy read and did not contain a lot of detail. A number of supporting fact sheets were available that provided more detailed information. She said that it had been difficult to achieve the right balance. As well as public meetings, information was available on the CCG's web-site and a DVD had been produced which outlined the case for change, the options being put forward and the main issues to be considered. The DVD was available upon request.

The Chairman of Richmondshire District Council's scrutiny Committee, Councillor Robinson addressed the meeting and invited the CCG to attend a meeting with the district council. Dr Pleydell agreed to his request and said she would discuss the details and arrangements outside of the meeting. Councillor Robinson said that Richmondshire District Council was opposed to the withdrawal of consultant led services and said that district councillors were very concerned about the failure of the ambulance service to meet response time targets. He ended by asking why the consultation document had failed to cost the options being put forward.

In response Dr Pleydell said that the CCG was in discussion with the ambulance service about response times and planned to invest additional monies in the service in order to 'beef' it up. She said that full details about the cost of the options were available in the business case on the web-site and on one of the fact sheets she had referred to earlier.

In response to questions from Members about the timing of public meetings, Dr Pleydell said that their research indicated that early evening was the most popular choice. She said that meetings referred to in the appendix had been advertised via notes in placed school children's lunch boxes and posters displayed in children's centres, nurseries, play groups and GP surgeries in an attempt to contact specifically the people most affected by the proposals namely young people and their families.

The Chairman said that the consultation document stated that other models of care would be considered and asked how this would be achieved. Dr Pleydell said the CCG had received some information from Grantham Hospital which it intended to publicise and would share with the Committee at its November meeting. She confirmed that as at that day she was not aware of any option that dealt properly with the safety concerns that had been raised.

The Chairman said the Committee looked forward to receiving a detailed presentation from the CCG at its November meeting when it would agree its formal response to the consultation. In the meantime he urged Members to encourage young people and their families to respond to the consultation and asked Members to come to the November meeting fully prepared having read all the available evidence.

Resolved –

That the Committee will at its meeting on 8 November 2013 agree its formal response to the consultation on children's and maternity services at Friarage Hospital, Northallerton.

16. Initiatives to Improve Access to Emergency/Urgent Care in the Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Area

Considered –

The covering report of Bryon Hunter, Scrutiny Team Leader informing the Committee of initiatives by the Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS) aimed at improving access to urgent and emergency healthcare services in the Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby area.

The report was in response to concerns raised at a previous meeting that whilst YAS was meeting as a Trust its response time targets, in rural areas such as Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby this was not the case. Ambulance response times had also been raised with regard to the proposed changes to children's and maternity services at the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton.

The Committee received a presentation from John Darly a private consultant, who had previously worked for YAS, whom the CCG and YAS had asked to undertake a short term project to develop new care pathways that better meet the needs of rural communities. He outlined the initiatives described in the report which he stressed were cost neutral. Since going live the GP urgent pathway initiative had saved 547 patients from being taken to hospital and as a result ambulance response times had improved.

The following points were raised during discussion

- That it was difficult to quantify the impact the initiatives would have on ambulance response times as only small numbers of Red 1 emergency calls were received.
- YAS was looking to increase the 4x4 capacity of fleet vehicles. However their improved performance in bad weather had to be balanced against their overall slower speed.
- Why wasn't YAS working with CCGs in Craven where response times were just as bad if not worse?
- Confirmed that internal exception reports were produced for each incident where the national target was not met
- Concern was expressed that not all shifts were properly manned.

On behalf of the Committee the Chairman welcomed the initiatives outlined in the report and called for the project to be rolled-out to other rural areas of North Yorkshire in particular Craven and Ryedale.

Resolved –

That a further report on the roll-out across North Yorkshire of developments taking place across the Hambleton Richmondshire and Whitby CCG area to improve access to urgent and emergency healthcare services be referred to a future meeting.

17. Remit of the Committee and Main Area of Work

Considered –

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

Members attention was drawn to the publication 'The NHS Belongs to the People' appended to the report as being a good source of intelligence about the pressures facing the health service in rural areas.

Resolved –

That the work programme be received and agreed as printed.

The meeting concluded at 12.25 pm.

JW/ALJ