

North Yorkshire County Council

Scrutiny of Health Committee

Minutes of the meeting held at The Street, Community Centre Scarborough on 13 June 2014.

Present:-

Members:-

County Councillor Jim Clark (in the Chair); County Councillors Val Arnold, David Billing, Liz Casling, John Clark, John Ennis, Heather Moorhouse, Patrick Mulligan, and Helen Swiers (substitute for Shelagh Marshall).

Co-opted Members:-

District Council Members:- Peter Bardon (Hambleton), Elizabeth Shields (Ryedale), Jane Mortimer (Scarborough), John Roberts (Craven), Michael Dyson (Selby) and Ian Galloway (Harrogate).

In attendance:-

North Yorkshire County Council: Executive Member County Councillor Clare Wood
 NYCC Yorkshire Coast & Moors Area Committee:- County Councillors Penny Marsden, David Jeffels and Carole Gerada (Parish Representative)
 Hambleton Richmondshire & Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group: Dr George Campbell and Sarah Ferguson
 York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust: Mike Proctor Deputy Chief Executive
 Scarborough & Ryedale Clinical Commissioning Unit: Simon Cox, Chief Officer
 North Yorkshire & Humber Commissioning Support Unit: Alex Trehitt and Iain Murray

County Council Officers: Bryon Hunter (Scrutiny Team Leader), Jane Wilkinson and Henry Blackett (Legal & Democratic Services) and Dr Lincoln Sargeant (Director of Public Health).

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors Philip Barrett, Margaret-Ann de Courcey-Bayley, Shelagh Marshall, Chris Pearson and David Simister and district Councillors Kay McSherry (Selby) and John Raper (Ryedale).

5 members of the press and public.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

The Chairman paid tribute to the Committee's former vice-chair, County Councillor Polly English who had died on Good Friday. The Committee then observed a minute's silence in her memory.

45. Minutes

Resolved

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 April 2014 be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

46. Chairman's Announcements

- Children's & Maternity Services, Friarage Hospital – Following the decision of the Secretary of State, proposals to end consultant-led maternity and paediatric services would now go ahead. The role of the Committee was to ensure implementation of the proposals was effected smoothly and that James Cook and Darlington Hospitals had the necessary capacity.
- Quality Accounts – A formal response had been sent to Harrogate & District NHS Foundation Trust, Airedale Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust.
- Autism Assessments – At the Committee's mid-cycle briefing, Members had learnt how additional investment was being used to fund initiatives aimed at reducing waiting times. The Committee would continue to monitor the situation and further updates would be provided in due course.
- Mental Health Services in Airedale and Craven - The Chairman together with Councillors from Bradford District Council had met with the Chief Executive of Bradford District Care Trust to discuss proposals for Ward 24, Airedale Hospital and a specialist unit for dementia patients at Lynfield Mount. Concerns around access and transport had been raised and the Chief Executive had given an undertaking to provide travel support for relatives and carers for the next five years.

47. Public Questions or Statements

There were no general 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.

48. "Fit 4 the Future" Initiatives Hambleton Richmondshire and Whitby

Considered -

The report of the Scrutiny Team Leader on two initiatives by Hambleton Richmondshire & Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group aimed at redesigning the future model of health and social care services in the area including Whitby Hospital. Appended to the report was a summary of the Clinical Commissioning Group's vision based on engagement work it had undertaken. The different challenges posed by localities had led to the project being divided into the following two initiatives:-

- "Fit 4 the Future" – Preparing for an aging population
- "Fit 4 the Future" – Enhancing community health and social services in Whitby and surrounding area

Dr George Campbell and Sarah Ferguson from Hambleton, Richmondshire & Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group together with Iain Murray (North Yorkshire & Humber Commissioning Support Unit) guided Members through a presentation that was tabled. The presentation highlighted progress made by each of the initiatives since previously reported to the Committee in January 2014. With regard to the Whitby area the presentation covered the retendering of a contract for community services and GP out of hours services and the potential options under consideration for redeveloping Whitby Hospital. Tabled at the meeting were an update paper (Whitby and surrounding area – June 2014) and a copy of the Whitby Hospital Strategic

Estate Options Appraisal. It was stressed that the preferred option for the redevelopment of the Whitby Hospital site as described in the presentation was still at the initial planning stage and therefore could be the subject of significant change before final approval was granted. The preferred option was to remodel and refurbish the four storey building on the rear of the current site which would then be able to meet all clinical requirements. The remaining surplus area could then be developed for community use such as extra care housing and bungalows for people with learning disabilities or alternative housing. A report was due to be presented to the CCG's governing body in July 2014. The proposals if approved would then be the subject of formal consultation. The Executive Member confirmed that the County Council was engaged in discussions with the CCG about community housing.

With regard to Hambleton & Richmondshire, Members were advised that the CCG intended to publish a report setting out its vision in the autumn that would include a long term strategy for the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton. Plans were also underway to provide 8-8 service provision based on learning from Whitby.

The Committee was advised of a successful bid to the Prime Minister's Challenge Fund. The monies secured by the CCG, £2.4m would be used to support a project to improve access for patients including IT access. The bid included a number of key elements including the use of technology to deliver remote consultations and partnership with large health partners such as Boots and WebMD.

During the course of the presentation it emerged that plans to constitute a GP Alliance/Federation across the Hambleton/Richmondshire area comprised of 21 merged practices were well advanced. The name of the federation which would be a limited company was 'Heartbeat Alliance'. One of the aims of the federation was to bid for contracts put out to tender such as out of hours and community services. The Committee was advised that robust governance arrangements had been put in place to guard against conflicts of interests. Despite the assurances given at the meeting that robust governance arrangements would be introduced Members remained concerned over there being conflicts of interest as the CCG would be commissioning services from GPs who were part of the CCG. The Chairman said that issues surrounding GP federation warranted closer examination and that a report on the matter would be added to the Committee's work programme and considered at a subsequent meeting.

Comments and questions from Members included:

- Commended the CCG on the quality and level of public engagement work it had undertaken surrounding the "Fit 4 the Future Initiatives".
- Supported and endorsed the long term vision being developed with regard to redesigning services and the redevelopment of the Whitby Hospital site
- disappointment at the lack of publicity/engagement regarding the CCG's plans to federate
- Emphasised the need for social housing in Whitby as opposed to private/holiday homes

The Chairman thanked the presenters for their attendance and the information they had provided. On behalf of the Committee he acknowledged the progress that had been made and congratulated the CCG on its successful bid to the Prime Minister's Challenge Fund.

Resolved –

That regular update reports on the “Fit 4 the Future” Initiatives in the Hambleton, Richmondshire & Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group area be referred to future meetings.

That a report on GP federation that included input from the North Yorkshire & Humber Commissioning Support Unit be referred to a future meeting.

49. ‘Right Care First Time’ - Improving Urgent Care Services in Scarborough and Ryedale

Considered -

The report of the Scrutiny Team Leader presenting the results of a consultation undertaken by Scarborough and Ryedale Clinical Commissioning Group on proposals to improve urgent care services in Scarborough and Ryedale.

The meeting was attended by Alex Trehwitt (NY & Y Commissioning Support Unit) and Simon Cox (Scarborough & Ryedale Clinical Commissioning Group) who outlined current services, the aims of the review, the response to the consultation and the timetable for procuring a new service.

The Scarborough & Ryedale Clinical Commissioning Group planned to carry out a procurement exercise during the summer with a view to announcing the service provider in September/October and for the new service to be launched in April 2015.

Questions and comments from the Committee included:-

- Would the Invitation to Tender documentation be made available to the public
- Queried why the tender documentation could not be site specific
- How would the gap in walk-in service provision at Castle Health Centre be managed
- How would the quality of the services provided be improved under the new contract
- Expressed support in principle for what the Clinical Commissioning Group was trying to achieve
- Commended the Clinical Commissioning Group on its engagement with the public
- Queried how staff shortages and recruitment problems would be overcome

Responses given by Simon Cox and Alex Trehwitt assured the Committee:

- That the Invitation to Tender documentation would be made available to the public and a copy forwarded to the Committee when available
- That if tender documentation was site specific it would limit the new services to continuing to be provided from current premises or to bids being received only from potential providers that had the capacity/ability to build new premises
- That there would be no gap in walk-in service provision at Castle Health Centre. Final details of the service to be provided between October and March were still the subject of negotiation between NHS England and the Castle Health Centre and were likely to be more nurse-led.
- Provision of a ‘one stop shop’ for all urgent care needs would reduce pressure on A&E and improve cost effectiveness. At present multiple points of access meant there was duplication and confusion about where to go. Patient transfers would in some instances still be necessary but the numbers would be minimal.

- Responsibility for staffing rested with the provider – longer contracts however provided greater security and meant there were opportunities to explore the use of telemedicine and different skill-mixes of staff such as more nurse practitioners

Resolved -

That the Scrutiny of Health Committee notes the results of the consultation for improving urgent care services in the Scarborough and Ryedale areas.

That further update reports are referred to the Committee in due course.

That copies of the Invitation to Tender documentation together with details of the final arrangements agreed to cover the gap in walk-in service provision at Castle Health Centre be circulated to Members when available.

50. York Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

The Committee received an oral report from Mike Proctor, Deputy Chief Executive at York Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust on the following:-

- community hubs in Malton and Selby;
- developments in community services in the Whitby area and at Whitby Hospital;
- midwife led unit at Scarborough Hospital; and
- increasing elective surgery at Bridlington Hospital.

Mike Proctor elaborated that faced with a growing demand for services and an increasingly elderly population unless care pathways changed he foresaw that the current system would break down. He believed that significant numbers of secondary care patients could be managed better and more cost effectively by providers working together.

The Committee was advised that the Trust together with the Clinical Commissioning Group had elected to develop community hubs in Malton and Selby on a pilot basis as opposed to going down the formal procurement route. Both community hubs were still in the initial stages of development, a final timescale had still to be agreed. Members noted that work on the Malton pilot was slightly more advanced and it was hoped an initial model would be place by October. In response to questions Members were advised that the Trust aimed to provide patient transport and that problems surrounding data sharing had delayed progress.

Members noted that demand for in-patient beds at Scarborough Hospital had led to orthopaedic procedures being cancelled. Bridlington Hospital had capacity and patient feedback received following elective surgery carried out there had been very positive. The vast majority of patients were reported as saying that they were happy to travel the increased distance if it meant their operation could go ahead as planned. Based on this success the Trust was considering plans to extend the surgery available to include day cases.

Members endorsed the Trust's attempts to improve patient experience and welcomed news that the mid-wife led unit at Scarborough Hospital would shortly be re-opened.

Resolved -

That the content of the presentation be noted.

That a further progress report on the development of community hubs in Malton and Selby is referred to the Committee later in the year.

51. Remit of the Committee and Main Areas of Work

Considered -

The report of Bryon Hunter, Scrutiny Team Leader inviting comments from Members on the content of the Committee's programme of work scheduled for future meetings.

Members were asked if they had any additions, comments or changes to make on the Work Programme.

In presenting his report Bryon Hunter commented that he had been approached by several North Yorkshire clinical commissioning groups wanting to engage with the Committee on proposed service developments. Members noted that the theme of the September meeting would be mental health services. It was pointed out that each of the clinical commissioning groups had appointed a lead for mental health and that it would be helpful for them to be invited to attend or contribute to the September meeting.

Resolved -

That the content of the work programme and work programme schedule are agreed and noted.

The meeting concluded at 12.30 pm

JW/JR