

North Yorkshire County Council

Scrutiny of Health Committee

Minutes of the meeting held at County Hall, Northallerton on 4 September 2015.

Present:-

Members:-

County Councillor Jim Clark (in the Chair)

County Councillors: Philip Barratt, David Billing, John Clark, Margaret-Ann de Courcey-Bayley, Tony Hall (substitute for County Councillor Elizabeth Casling), Michael Heseltine (substitute for County Councillor Heather Moorhouse), David Jeffels substitute for (County Councillor John Ennis), Shelagh Marshall OBE, Caroline Patmore (substitute for Val Arnold), Chris Pearson, David Simister and Cliff Trotter.

Co-opted Members:-

District Council Representatives:- Bob Gardiner (Ryedale), Councillors Jane E Mortimer (Scarborough), Karin Sedgwick (Richmondshire) and Ian Galloway (Harrogate).

In attendance:-

South Tees Hospitals NHS FT: Tricia Hart Chief Executive, Siobhan McArdle Director of Transformation and Val Gair (Head of Nursing)

Hambleton Richmondshire & Whitby CCG: Debbie Newton Chief Operating Officer

Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Trust: Adele Coulthard Director of Operations

NY Partnership Commissioning Unit: Janet Probert

Community Pharmacy North Yorkshire: Jack Davies

County Councillor Gareth Dadd

County Council Officers: Jane Wilkinson (Democratic Services), Bryon Hunter (Scrutiny), Wendy Balmain and Lincoln Sargeant (Health & Adult Services)

3 members of the press and public

Apologies for absence were received from: County Councillors Clare Wood, Val Arnold, Liz Casling John Ennis, Heather Moorhouse and District Council Representatives:- Keith Hardisty (Hambleton), Judith Chilvers (Selby), and Linda Brockbank (Craven),

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

89. Minutes

Resolved

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2015 be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

90. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman provided the Committee with an update relating to the following matters:-

- **Care Quality Commission Inspections** (Yorkshire Ambulance Service, South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust) – To be the subject of further discussion at the November meeting of the Committee.
- **Meetings with CCGs regarding Primary Care Commissioning** – The outcome of discussions between the Chairman and the CCGs to be reported to a future meeting.
- **Dentistry in Bedale, Hawes and Leyburn** – The Chairman read out a request from County Councillor John Blackie for the matter to be added to the agenda of the November meeting of the Committee. The Chairman said the Committee would discuss the matter under the Work Programme item.
- **Draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy** - The Chairman had sent a response suggesting the inclusion of a specific theme 'Dying Well'.
- **Scarborough and Ryedale CCG - "F.A.S.T." Campaign to Spot Signs of Stroke** – The CCG had issued a press release in response to the Committee highlighting the need for a stroke awareness and recognition campaign across the area.
- **Whitby Hospital** – HRW CCG had agreed to provide the Committee with regular updates regarding problems preventing Virgin Healthcare from taking over the contract for Community & OoHs Services in the Whitby area.

91. **Public Questions or Statements**

There were no statements or questions from members of the public.

92. **Temporary Closure of Lambert Memorial Community Hospital, Thirsk**

The Committee received a presentation from Tricia Hart, Chief Executive South Tees Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust on the temporary closure of the 14 bed ward at Lambert Memorial Hospital in Thirsk. The ward provides end of life care for patients as well as general rehabilitation, diagnostics and drug administration.

The decision to close the ward had been taken to address patient safety concerns that had arisen from staffing pressures due to by difficulties filling vacant nursing posts, inability to get sufficient temporary nursing cover through NHS professional and long-term sickness absence leave.

The Committee was advised that since taking over the management of the Lambert Hospital in 2011 the Trust had struggled to maintain staffing levels. A number of actions had been taken to try and address staffing issues including nursing staff from other hospitals providing cover but the current situation meant this was no longer sustainable.

No new patients were being transferred to the Lambert and existing patients were gradually being discharged. Six additional beds were being opened on the Rutson Ward at the Friarage Hospital.

The Trust said it had not taken the decision lightly and would review services in January 2016. A new cohort of newly qualified nurses in February could offer a solution.

The local member County Councillor Gareth Dadd addressed the Committee. He said he had major concerns about the closure and could not understand why nursing staff could not be transferred from among the 3,500 working at the Trust's other

hospitals. The closure came at a time when winter pressures would see an increased demand for beds and he urged the Committee and HRW CCG to call for the beds to be re-opened.

In the face of the national shortage of nurses and number of current nursing vacancies at both James Cook University Hospital and Friarage Hospital Members were sceptical that the new cohort of qualified nurses in February would offer a solution. Current shortages meant that nurses could choose where they wanted to work with many being attracted to agency working which offered higher rates of pay.

Wendy Balmain pointed out that staff shortages were not restricted to nurses, the Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy had identified staffing shortages in domiciliary care as a priority. The Health & Wellbeing Board was currently engaged in scoping work looking at workforce issues.

The Chairman was concerned that the closure whilst initially described as being temporary could easily become long term.

The Trust strenuously denied suggestions from Members that the closure was a cost cutting exercise and that the Trust's stretched finances had influenced their decision. Members did not accept that finance together with poor workforce planning had not played a part in the decision making.

In summing up the Chairman said that in view of the seriousness of the concerns expressed that day a progress report on the matter would be referred to the next meeting of the Committee.

Resolved –

That the Committee expresses its deep concern at the closure of the ward at the Lambert Hospital and calls on South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to announce a target date by which the beds will be re-opened.

That a further joint report be referred to the meeting of the Committee in November on how NHS and social care working collectively will mitigate the impact of these changes as plans are made for the winter period drawing on lessons from previous years.

93. Developments in the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust

Considered -

The report of the Scrutiny Team Leader briefing Members on the outcome of the Care Quality Commission's (CQC) inspection of the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWVFT). The report also described work the Trust was carrying out to address issues highlighted by the inspection and summarised TEWVFT's plans for taking over mental health and learning disability services in the York and Selby area.

Adele Coulthard gave a presentation. She emphasised that all improvement actions needed to meet CQC essential standards had been met and that an overall improvement plan to address those areas the CQC had identified as in need of improvement had been developed.

In response to questions about delays in patient referral pathways Adele Coulthard agreed to speak to the member concerned outside of the meeting as it related to a specific complaint.

With regard to the Briary Wing at Harrogate District Hospital the Committee was advised that it was not proved possible to refurbish the existing facilities. Consequently an alternative site had been identified at Cardale Park, Harrogate. The Trust was currently working with an architect on an outline design with a view to submitting an application for planning permission

Members congratulated TEVVFT on the results of the CQC inspection and the improvements they had made to their estate.

Resolved -

That the Chairman write to TEVVFT congratulating them on the results of their CQC inspection and works to improvements estate in particular the provision of new Section 136 suites in Harrogate, Northallerton and Scarborough.

That arrangements be made for members to visit TEVVFT facilities.

That details of the mobilisation plan for taking over mental health and learning disability services in the York and Selby area be referred to the Committee in due course.

94. The Role of Pharmacy in Primary Care

The Committee received a presentation from Jack Davies, Chief Executive Officer, Community Pharmacy North Yorkshire on community pharmacy and enhanced services pharmacies could deliver in the future in North Yorkshire.

Members noted that no specific funding was available to pharmacies for them to build private consultation booths.

Members endorsed the provision of enhanced services by pharmacies which they said would help relieve pressure on GP surgeries as well as being cost effective.

The Chairman thanked Jack Davies for his information presentation. Pharmacies had the potential to provide benefits on many different levels which he hoped would soon be unlocked and he looked forward to receiving further reports in the future.

Resolved -

That the presentation be noted.

95. Joint All Age Autism Strategy

Considered -

The report of the Scrutiny Team Leader updating Members on progress developing the Joint All Age Autism Strategy and providing the Committee with an opportunity to influence and contribute to the content of the final version of the strategy.

Janet Probert summarised emerging themes from the consultation which was due to close on 11 September 2015. She highlighted a rise in the number of referrals and the commencement in the autumn of an adult autism/ADHD assessment and diagnostic service in North Yorkshire.

A Member pointed out the omission of transitions from the draft strategy which Janet Probert agreed to amend to include.

Members commended Janet Probert and her colleagues on the way they had continually engaged with the Committee on the development of the strategy and for organising and hosting what had clearly been successful consultation events.

The Chairman said that the Committee looked forward to being involved in the preparation of the implementation plan and in the on-going monitoring of that plan.

Resolved -

That progress made on the Joint All Age Autism Strategy be noted and further reports on preparation and monitoring of the implementation plan be referred to the Committee in due course.

96. Work Programme

Considered -

The Scrutiny Team Leader presented the Committee's programme of work scheduled for future meetings.

Items for inclusion on the Agenda for the November meeting to include:-

- Yorkshire Ambulance Service: CQC Inspection Results and Trust's responses
- Update on the Lambert Hospital Thirsk.

Members were given an update on progress of 'Future In Mind' (CAMHS) and the timetable for sign off of transformation plans. Members were advised that details of the content of locality plans would also be considered at the November meeting.

The Scrutiny Team Leader informed Members that the focus of the January would be Fracking with a view to the Committee's work being to inform the new Joint Local Minerals and Waste Plan. The Committee would not be considering individual planning applications for Fracking.

Resolved -

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

Councillor Jim Clark highlighted to Members that as Jane Wilkinson would shortly be moving to a different post in the County Council this would be the last time she would be supporting the Committee. On behalf of the Committee, Councillor Clark thanked Jane for her work and wished her well in her new role.

The meeting concluded at 1.00pm.

JW