



Wiltshire Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES of a MEETING held at WILTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL 15 NOVEMBER 2007

PRESENT: County Councillors; Mr Jeff Osborn, Mr Bill Moss, Mrs Pat Rugg, Mrs Judy Seager, Mr Roy While, Mrs White, Mr Hewson. District Councillors: Mr Mike Hewitt (Salisbury District Council), Mr Brian Mudge (West Wiltshire District Council)

STAKEHOLDERS: Dr Peter Biggs, Terry White, (Wiltshire Patient's Forum), Anna Farquhar & Ann Keating (Great Western Ambulance Trust PPIF) Mrs Jean Cole (User & Carers' Network).

OTHERS: Alison Knowles, Jenny Edwards, Wiltshire Primary Care Trust; Lyn Hill-Tout, Swindon & Marlborough Trust, James Cawley & Jo Howes, Wiltshire County Council, Miranda Gilmour, North Wilts District Council, Helen Karn, Kennet District Council, Malcolm Sinclair, Mike Relfe, Christina Button, AWP Mental Health Partnership Trust

Members of the public present: 1

52. Apologies

Paula Winchcombe (sub – Laura Mayes)
Sheila Parker

53. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting held on 19 July 2007.

54. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman had to make the sad announcement that Mike Griffiths, who represented the Wiltshire PCT PPIF on the Committee, had died suddenly at home on 4 November.

The Chairman also reminded members of the informal meeting with Maggie Rae, Director of Public Health, which will take place at County Hall on 28 November.

55. Member's Interests

Jeff Osborn, Chair, Trowbridge Hospital League of Friends
Pat Rugg, DASH
Margaret White, Health Advocacy Partnership

56. Public Participation

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

57. Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust – Foundation Trust Bid

The Chairman welcomed Christina Button and Malcolm Sinclair who introduced the engagement plan which outlines the Trust's proposed bid for Foundation status.

It was stated that Foundation status will allow the Trust to achieve greater clarity in its contracts with partners and will allow it to display a kite mark of quality for its services. The funding arrangements will allow greater financial freedom.

The Trust is asking for views on recruiting members and on how to plan the consultation.

There was a discussion about what will be the actual differences in terms of the services offered. Concerns were expressed regarding the Trust's previous ratings from the Healthcare Commission, in particular with regard to financial management.

It was resolved to:

Ask the Mainstreaming Mental Health Task Group to provide responses to the Trust on behalf of the Committee.

Ask the Health Scrutiny Officer to research how Foundation Trusts are performing in general.

58. Mainstreaming Mental Health Task Group – Update Report

Jeff Osborn (JO) and Terry White (TW) spoke on behalf of the Task Group, outlining the discussions of the last meeting.

The only outstanding issue from the consultation now is the decision about where to locate beds for older people in West Wiltshire.

In the South some problems remain from the consultation carried out by South Wiltshire PCT in 2005, but these are being dealt with under the umbrella of the Commissioning Framework Review.

The Task Group has been given assurances that robust arrangements are being put in place to resolve these outstanding difficulties.

Malcolm Sinclair (MS) noted that this Task Group report marked the end of MMH, apart from the outstanding beds in West Wiltshire. However there will continue to be changes in mental health services, which is right, and the Task Group is well placed to deal with these as they arise now.

The Trust is pleased with the way commissioning intentions are being developed for Wiltshire as they are the most comprehensive for the Trust.

Alison Knowles (AK) added that the day services that are mentioned in paragraph 12 of the Task Group report are being reviewed at the moment and a draft proposal will be available by the end of November.

It was resolved to:

Ask the Task Group to continue to monitor the impact of Mainstreaming Mental Health changes.

Amend the Terms of Reference for the Task Group to allow it to focus on wider mental health issues, including commissioning.

59. Draft Mental Health Commissioning Framework

James Cawley, Assistant Director in Community Services introduced the item. The draft commissioning intention documents will be followed by more detailed plans.

The PCT and WCC are planning for the joint commissioning of services and the Health OSC has made it clear in the past that it wants to see this happen.

The vision for mental health services will cover 2-5 years and will look at need and demand in the short and long term.

AWP as the provider will work with the commissioners to assess how services will have to change to meet demand and users will help the commissioners to work our priorities and how to deliver them.

There will be more joined up working with community safety, linking into drug and alcohol issues.

There was a statement from Councillor John Thomson, cabinet portfolio holder for Community Services in support of the move toward joint arrangements. The PCT and AWP also stated their support for the draft document.

It was resolved to:

Ask the Mainstreaming Mental Health Task Group to respond to the draft document on behalf of the Committee.

60. Great Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust

Tim Lynch (TL), Chief Executive and Stephen Rawlings, Clinical Director of the Trust presented the Trust's vision for the improvement of services for the future.

It was explained that people are turning to the emergency services for all manner of problems and they need to become smarter at handling these calls.

The ambulance service will have 90 seconds less time to dispatch resources as a result of changes in the way calls are handled.

The Trust will have to make some quite substantial changes both to improve its response times and to develop services for the future.

There was a general conversation about the role of the ambulance service in the community and the way the public view the service. The impact of changes to out of hours services was also discussed.

TL gave an update on an incident that had been reported in the press in South Wiltshire where a patient died after an ambulance had taken over 30 minutes to attend. The Trust is carrying out an investigation into what happened and is reviewing the implementation of the new CAD system, which may have had a bearing on this case.

The Committee then considered the report which outlined the case for joint scrutiny of the Ambulance Trust by Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire councils.

It was resolved that:

The Committee would formally carry out joint scrutiny of the Great Western Ambulance Trust with Gloucestershire and Swindon Councils.

61. Delayed Transfers of Care Task Group

Malcolm Hewson presented the update report from the Task Group and stated that the professionals in the PCT and WCC had convinced the Group it should be looking at the whole system of care for older people in order to fully understand the nature of the problem.

All the Trusts affected have agreed to provide a contact for the Task Group to deal with.

62. Reforming Community Services - Update

Alison Knowles gave a verbal update to the Committee. Nine of the eleven neighbourhood teams will be up and running by December, working from seven in the morning until ten o'clock at night. There are delays with the teams in Malmesbury where there are still significant vacancies and in Marlborough where nothing can happen until the outcome of the judicial review is known.

There are 27 staff who still won't confirm whether they want to work in the new system, 10 of whom have been on long term sick or maternity leave. There are enough jobs for all clinical staff, there will be no redundancies.

Closure of some of the inpatient beds has slowed down to allow for neighbourhood teams to come online.

There was a general discussion about rumoured changes to other hospital sites, the programme for the development of primary care centres and how to improve communications.

It was requested that an update on the financial situation of the Trust be given.

It was resolved to:

Note the update on Reforming Community Services.

Arrange a briefing on the financial situation of the PCT.

63. Annual Healthcheck – Results for 2006/07 and Process for 2007/08

The Committee received the update report.

It was resolved to:

Agree the process for the provision of comments for each trust for 2007/08.

64. Workplan – For Information

The Committee received the updated workplan.

It was resolved to:

Hold a development session in the New Year to update the workplan.

It was noted that the Committee will have to involve itself in the development of the PCT's Commissioning Prospectus.

**The meeting was closed at 13:00
Duration 2.5 hours**

65. Date of Next Meeting

20 March 2008

The officer who has produced these notes is Jo Howes, Health Scrutiny Officer within Democratic and Members' Services, direct line (01225) 713004; Email johowes@wiltshire.gov.uk