



Wiltshire Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES of a MEETING held at WILTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL 28 JUNE 2006

PRESENT: County Councillors; Mrs M Groom, Mr W Moss, Mr J Osborn, Mr M Hewson, Mrs P Rugg, Mrs J Seager, Mr R While (Chair), Mrs M White. District Councillors; Mrs P Winchcombe (Kennet District Council), Mr M Hewitt & Mr P Paisey (Salisbury District Council), Mr E Manasseh (West Wiltshire District Council), Mrs J Wood (North Wiltshire District Council).

STAKEHOLDERS: Dr P Biggs (West Wilts PCT Patient's Forum), Mr M Griffiths (Kennet & North Wiltshire Patient's Forum), Mrs J Cole (User & Carers' Network).

OTHERS: Judy Rooke, John Thomson, Mary Douglas, Jane Duke (Wiltshire County Council), Edwina Lloyd (Royal United Hospital, Bath), Helen Karn (Kennet District Council), Miranda Gilmour (North Wiltshire District Council), Nicholas Gillard, Shiena Bowen (Kennet & North and West Wiltshire PCTs), Peter Wilson (Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership Trust), June Sadd (Wiltshire & Swindon User's Network).

Members of the public present: 2

1. Apologies

Terry White

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true record.

3. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman announced that the RUH has to address a serious financial overspend which is currently forecast at £7m, and that this is likely to involve service changes. The Health Scrutiny Officer is liaising with BANES OSC to ensure that opportunities for joint scrutiny are not missed.

Salisbury Healthcare NHS Trust has been granted Foundation Trust status as of 1 June. County Councillor Bill Moss and Salisbury District Councillor Patrick Paisey have been appointed to sit on the Board of Governors. The Trust will now be known as Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust.

4. Member's Interests

Eli Manasseh – Westbury Hospital Campaign group
Jeff Osborn – Chair, Trowbridge Hospital League of Friends
Paula Winchcombe – Kennet District Council debate on Pathways for Change already held
Margaret White – Director, Health Advocacy Partnership

5. Public Participation

6. Pathways for Change Task Group – Consultation Response

The Chairman introduced the Task Group Chairman, Peter Biggs (PB), and asked him to take the Committee through the key themes, further questions and recommendations.

PB outlined the work of the Task Group, which included a number of witness interviews and visits to hospital sites.

The Task Group has carried out scrutiny of the process and has commented on some of the key themes to have emerged from the public meetings and the Task Group's own meetings.

PB thanked the members of the Task Group and the Health Scrutiny officer for their work in putting the document together.

Members were given an opportunity to comment on each of the key themes and to debate any changes suggested to either the further questions or the recommendations.

There was a full debate about the Task Group's response to the consultation, with members raising further concerns about integrated mental and physical care beds, how information about where/how to access different types of care will be made available to the public, maternity services, the relationship between health and social care, transport, voluntary services and carers.

There was further general debate which covered the issue of NICE guidance for certain disciplines (e.g. maternity), the need for a clear timetable outlining where and when changes will happen, rural proofing exercises published by the Countryside Agency, levels of finance require to deliver the options and the need for further information to explain where Primary Care Centres will be placed.

Although members are naturally concerned about the impact on their local areas, PB stressed that the Task Group had tried to look at the wider impact on all the communities affected.

The Committee agreed a number of changes to the response, to be made before submitting the response to the PCTs.

- In the section entitled "Equity" after paragraph 35 it was agreed to insert:

Following the publication of the Mainstreaming Mental Health consultation document, the Task Group was further concerned

about the risks to mental health services in relying on integrated mental and physical health beds located at PCT sites, although it recognised the benefits for patients provided the PCTs are fully committed.

- After paragraph 44 it was agreed to insert:

It is vitally important that any changes in healthcare being proposed, and implemented, take into account fully the importance of the integration of health, mental health and social care to ensure that all patients have a care package that is integrated at the point of delivery.

- In the second recommendation relating to equity it was agreed to replace birthing centres with:

Other birthing facilities such as birthing rooms in Primary Care Centres and New Generation Community Hospitals, and to take a flexible approach to allow expansion and development of a range of maternity services in each locality in the future.

- Under the recommendations regarding social services it was agreed to insert as an extra recommendation:

The PCTs and DACS provide regular updates to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee regarding the development and provision of integrated care packages.

- To amend the second recommendation in the Options section to read:

The OSC recommends that the PCT adopt a flexible approach to development of new services, ensuring that all viable proposals that have been brought forward during the consultation are explored and can be incorporated into the options presented.

- It was agreed that the following further question would be asked:

How are the PCTs and DACS working together to ensure that patients will receive care packages that are integrated at the point of delivery?

The Chairman invited Nicholas Gillard of the PCTs to comment and he added clarity on a number of points and thanked the Task Group for the work they had carried out during the course of the consultation.

It was resolved to:

Submit the Task Group report to the PCTs as the Overview & Scrutiny Committee's formal response to the consultation subject to the amendments agreed above.

Submit the recommendations that relate to DACS to the Cabinet Member of the County Council.

7. Mainstreaming Mental Health Task Group – Response to Consultation

The Chairman introduced Mrs Winchcombe (PW), who had chaired the Mainstreaming Mental Health Task Group.

PW introduced the report and thanked the Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership Trust (AWP) for its generosity in assisting the Task Group while the report was being put together.

PW stated that it was a shame that Mainstreaming Mental Health did not seem to attract as much attention as Pathways for Change had done, and praised the presentations made by AWP at the public meetings and also their relationship with users and carers.

Common themes and concerns to have come out of the consultation centred around provision of beds, transport, and achievability of community services and over reliance on carers.

During the debate members of the committee raised a number of other issues, including use of complementary therapies, the importance of good communication between all the relevant authorities and the importance of good working relationships.

The Chairman invited Peter Wilson of AWP to comment and he added clarity to a number of the points raised, in particular regarding the number of integrated beds to be placed in the New Generation Community Hospitals.

It was resolved to:

Amend the wording of the second recommendation to read:

That the PCTs, AWP and the County Council commit to the provision of services that are integrated at the point of delivery and to ensure that the responsibilities for each discipline are clearly defined. The Task Group does not recommend that budgets should be pooled to achieve this.

Submit the Task Group report to the Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership Trust and the PCTs as the Overview & Scrutiny Committee's formal response to the consultation subject to the amendments agreed above.

Submit the recommendations that relate to DACS to the Cabinet Member of the County Council.

8. School Catering Scrutiny Task Group

The Committee received the final report of the School Catering Task Group. Councillor Judy Rooke who chaired the Task Group attended and gave an overview of the work of the Task Group and the content of the report.

It was resolved to:

Endorse the report of the School Catering Scrutiny Task Group

9. Work Plan

Members were asked to note the work plan and to give consideration to future scrutiny reviews for discussion at the next meeting.

10. Date of Next Meeting

13 September 2006 at 14:30

(Duration of the meeting 10:30 – 13:00)

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