



Wiltshire Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES of a MEETING held at WILTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL 23 March 2005

PRESENT: County Councillors: Mr J Thomson (Chairman), Mrs M Groom, Mr A Moore, Mr P Allnatt, Mr W Moss, Mr J Osborn and Mrs M Taylor. District Councillors: Mr M Hewitt (Salisbury District Council), and Mrs P Winchcombe (Kennet District Council).

STAKEHOLDERS: Mr T White (Chairman of South Wilts PCT Patient Forum) Mrs J Cole (User & Carers' Network).

OTHERS: Mr Martin Plimsoll, Salisbury Alzheimers Society; Jean Acton, AWP Mental Health Trust PPIF; Helen Thompson, Swindon PCT PPIF; Beryl Paton, South Wiltshire PPIF; Jan Stubbings, Sally Banister, Ros Hartley, South Wiltshire PCT; Malcolm Sinclair, AWP Mental Health Partnership; Jeanette Longhurst, Chris Chorley, WCC DACS.

Members of the public present: 3

15. Apologies

Apologies were sent by Paul Fox, Mandy Bradley, Gordon Cox

16. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolved:

To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2005 as a true record.

17. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman announced that he, the Vice-Chairman and the Health Scrutiny Officer would attend a meeting with KNW & WW PCTs and the Independent Reconfiguration Panel on 19 April 2005.

18. Member's Interests

None

19. Public Participation

Four members of the public had asked to make statements or ask questions.
Jean Acton from the AWP Mental Health PPI Forum
Beryl Paton from South Wiltshire PPI Forum
Martin Plimsoll, Chairman, Salisbury Branch of the Alzheimer's Society
Stuart Dennis, father and carer of a service user in South Wiltshire

Statements have been attached where possible.

The Chairman thanked all members of the public for their participation.

20. South Wiltshire Primary Care Trust – Consultation on Reconfiguration of Mental Health Services

Sally Banister gave a presentation (attached at Appendix 1) which outlined changes to the original proposals and where no changes had been made.

There was a general discussion which covered issues including how the consultation had shaped the final proposals, how responses to the consultation had been made, and meetings and events that had been held during the consultation.

Members had been informed that neither the PCT Board nor the Mental Health Steering Group had received, or been able to comment upon the paper, which had been sent to the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee for this meeting. It was agreed that timing of meetings for the HOSC, the PCT Board and the Steering Group had not been in sync, but the Chief Executive of South Wiltshire PCT confirmed that the PCT Board supported the revised proposals.

There was further discussion about optimum numbers of beds and the most suitable, cost effective ways of providing them, the future of the Amblescroft and Grovely sites, and the development of community services alongside this as part of the improvement programme.

Malcolm Sinclair gave the official view of AWP Mental Health Partnership. The Partnership does not welcome the loss of investment, but does welcome the focus on community services and the PCT's move toward financial balance. The Partnership is also concerned that these developments should not be held up and would prefer to continue to negotiate on uncertain areas with the PCT, within the context of the proposals being implemented.

He also formally reported the views of a carer in the Salisbury area who has expressed deep concern over the closure of the Grovely unit and the need to secure alternative support for the individuals affected.

Chris Chorley gave the Wiltshire County Council Adult & Community Service department's view on the changes, which was supportive of the changes proposed by South Wilts PCT provided they are implemented in a planned way. The transitional period is seen as key to the success of the scheme.

Terry White commented that the consultation had gone very well right up until the last week, when various timing issues had meant that the people who should have had had the opportunity to see the OSC paper had not done.

The re-registration of beds in the Amblescroft South ward was discussed. It was explained that, according to current legislation, it would be unlawful for AWP Mental Health Partnership to run Amblescroft South as a care home, and unlawful for WCC to purchase such services from AWP. Therefore, it is necessary for a third party to run the ward when it has been registered on behalf of all commissioners.

Assurance was given that if more than one crisis bed is needed at any given time; such beds will be made available.

The committee expressed concern that patients should not suffer a reduction in service during the transitional period.

Assurance was given that grant funding to independent sector providers would be reconfigured, not withdrawn.

The committee referred to the questions posed by Mr Dennis at the start of the meeting, but stated that it could not use its powers to prevent changes from happening unless there is irrefutable evidence that any such changes would not be in the best interests of the health community.

The Committee took each of the revised proposals listed in Appendix 7 in turn and formally recorded its views on each:

5.3.1	Committee approved	5.4.9	Committee approved
5.3.2	Committee approved	5.4.10	Committee approved
5.3.3	Committee approved	5.5.1	Committee approved
5.4.1	See Resolution (iii) b.	5.5.2	Committee approved
5.4.2	Committee approved	5.5.3	Committee approved
5.4.3	See Resolution (iii) b.	5.5.4	Committee approved
5.4.4	See Resolution (iii) b.	5.5.5	Committee approved
5.4.5	Committee approved	5.6.2	Committee approved
5.4.6	Committee approved	5.6.3	Committee approved
5.4.7	Committee approved	5.6.4	Committee approved
5.4.8	See Resolution (iv)		

Resolutions:

The Committee agreed that:

- (i) A great deal of work had been done by all those involved in the review, and that SW PCT had shown a great deal of good will towards the public, patients and other respondents to the consultation in taking their views on board.*
- (ii) The consultation carried out by South Wiltshire Primary Care Trust has been robust, inclusive and has actively sought the views of patients, the public, carers and other interested parties.*

- (iii) *The general direction of travel for mental health services in South Wiltshire is right, but that South Wilts PCT should be asked to consider the following recommendations:*
- a. *We would like to see, at the earliest possible opportunity, a detailed time line for implementation of the planned service changes to illustrate when disinvestment in beds will take place and when the alternative community based services will be operational.*
 - b. *We would also ask the PCT to reconsider its provision for crisis management and in particular:*
 - c. *To commit to further work with partners to develop residential crisis services so that such support can be given away from the acute unit at Beechlydene, in a more appropriate setting.*
- (iv) *In addition we propose to extend the Task Group, which formulated the original Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee consultation response, so that it can continue to work with the PCT during the further review of day care services.*
- (v) *Ask the Task Group to formally seek the views of the Steering Group to the final proposal document.*
- (vi) *Request that the Task Group be kept abreast of the discussions held at the Joint Commissioning Board during the forthcoming transitional period.*

21. Health OSC Work Programme

Members received, for information, the work programme updated from the last Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on 9 March 2005.

22. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 29 June 2005 at 10:30 am at County Hall.

23. Urgent Items

None

(Duration of the meeting: 11:00 – 12:45)

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