

Reforming Community Services Task Group – Update Report

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Committee about the work of the Reforming Community Services task Group.

Background

2. The Group has continued to receive briefing papers, statistical information and opportunities for discussions with, and questioning of, the PCT on the new services. A work plan is attached at Appendix 1.
3. The Recommendations set out in the 1st March 2007 Report to the HOSC have been reviewed, and discussion held on the Melksham MIU Petition and Chippenham Hospital Bed closures.

Review of recommendations made in the Reforming Community Services Task group report to Wiltshire Health Scrutiny & Overview Committee 1st March 2007

4. Recommendations, and current achievement status:
 - I. To note that the decisions taken by the Wiltshire PCT Board on 30 January 2007 are in accordance with national policy and guidance published by the Department of Health for the commissioning and delivery of community services and that, despite any personal misgivings that members of the Committee may have, there is no legal reason for the Committee to formally object to the decisions under Section 7 of the Health & Social Care Act, 2001. **Achieved**
 - II. That the Task Group continues to meet throughout the implementation stage to give particular consideration to how local people are involved in developments in their communities. **Achieved**
 - III. That the Committee receives bi-monthly updates from the PCT about the implementation of its plans, and in particular the establishment of the neighbourhood teams. **Achieved**
 - IV. That, as plans for minor injury services are implemented, the Committee seeks information from the Great Western Ambulance Trust regarding any impact on the services it delivers to the people of Wiltshire.
Being addressed by the Joint GWAS Scrutiny Committee.

The HOSC made a series of further recommendations to the PCT, all of which have been met.

In view of the HOSC's comments on 'Domino' rooms the Task Group welcomes the PCT's decision (June Board meeting) to provide a birthing unit at the Trowbridge PCC – with the possibility of units at other PCCs in future.

5. The Task Group has done what it was asked to do in March 07 and, after a bedding in period for some of the changes in RCS, is continuing to monitor the progress of these changes and their effect on healthcare around Wiltshire.

Melksham Minor Injuries Unit

6. The PCT's proposal for Reforming Community Services were endorsed by the HOSC, at the meeting in March 2007, after considering a report from the Task Group. Questions and comments regarding MIUs were raised at the time.

EXTRACT from 1 March 2007 Task Group Report.

81. The Task Group assumes that, until more is known about where minor injuries will be treated for each community, there will continue to be confusion and consternation. It is the view of the Task Group that the PCT must carry out urgent work to resolve this issue and to publish a comprehensive list of minor injury services at the earliest opportunity.

7. The PCT carried out its proposed changes to MIU provision in October 2007, and the Task Group has received regular updates on development and progress. The PCT Board Paper (20 May 08) addresses current activities of the two MIUs (Trowbridge and Chippenham) and compares these with those of the past – see Appendix 2 - Extract of the PEC minutes, which give a summary. A further Board Paper addressed the Melksham petition and its requests, and recommended that the Board discussed the petitioners requests:
 - (i) Explore the option of St Damien's surgery providing an enhanced Primary Care minor injury service.
 - (ii) Restore the minor injury unit to Melksham Hospital.

After considerable discussion (see Appendix 3 - Extract from PCT Board Minutes) the requests were rejected.

8. PALS has received no serious complaints about the MIU's service since the changes in October. PALS is the service to which questions concerns and complaints about MIUs should be made by patients.
9. Having considered the available evidence and after considerable discussion the Task Group is asking the HOSC to:
 - Write to the three GP practices in Melksham to ask why they have not shown any interest in providing Minor Injury Services in the town. (i.e. St Damien's, Giffords, Spa,)
 - Ask the PCT the cost of an 'enhanced GP contract' to supply Minor Injury Services in Melksham, at an activity level for current residents, if a surgery offered to supply it.

Chippenham Hospital Beds (General Medical)

10. The number of General Medical beds at Chippenham Hospital was reduced from 43 to 20 at the end of June 2008. The original RCS programme was to reduce to 10 beds, but was amended to 20 pending the outcome of a review by the North Wiltshire Practice Based Commissioning Consortium. The review has just been completed and its findings are expected to be submitted to the July PCT board.
11. On 3rd July 2008 the Task Group heard a representation from Dr Nicholas Brown (Chippenham GP), and also received the regular Inpatient Services update from Alison Knowles (Director-Corporate Affairs & Communication) at the PCT.
12. After further Discussion, the Task Group agreed that it should await the Trusts response to the Consortium findings before considering the matter further.

Risk Assessment

13. There are no risks to the County Council in this report.

Conclusions

14. The Reforming Community Services achieved its recommendations set out in March 2007. The Group will continue to meet on a 6 weekly basis to monitor the effect of PCT's programme of reform.

Financial Implications

15. There are no financial implications for the County Council in this report.

Recommendations

16. Members are asked to note the update report
17. The Committee is also asked to write to the GP practices and PCT as requested in Para 9 above.

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