

Reforming Community Services Task Group – Update Report

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Committee about the next phase of work to be undertaken by the Reforming Community Services (previously Pathways for Change) Task Group.

Background

2. The Task Group had been scheduled to meet on 1 May, but last minute illness and unforeseen commitments meant it had to be cancelled. It is now scheduled to meet on 16 May.
3. The Task Group has had a hiatus for a number of months, following a number of meetings in the summer of 2007 where it focussed on the formation of the Neighbourhood Teams.
4. Once the foundations of the Neighbourhood Teams were in place the Task Group decided to wait for the PCT to develop and implement further elements in the Reforming Community Services programme, and to allow these services some time to bed in so that the impact of changes on patients and the community could be assessed.
5. The most immediate changes were a reduction in the number of inpatient beds overall, a reduction in the number of maternity beds following the closure of the unit at Devizes, changes to the minor injuries service and the introduction of neighbourhood nursing teams working in the community.
6. During this period the primary care centre at Malmesbury has also been completed and is scheduled to open in June.
7. The PCT has also committed to a review of the model for maternity services to examine its fitness or purpose for the future. This review will include an assessment of the recommendation made by the Health OSC in March 2007 to investigate the potential for use of domino facilities in community settings, such as primary care centres. The Task Group will receive the PCT's findings in due course and the PCT Board will make any further decisions relating to maternity services.

Future Work Plan for the Task Group

8. A work plan for the Task Group is attached at Appendix 1. The work plan outlines the areas the Task Group will focus on over the course of its next series of meetings. The first meeting will focus on minor injuries services and will enable the members to investigate concerns raised by the Melksham community area and the impact on the changes around the county.
9. The Task Group will also consider the implications of the amended bed reductions at Chippenham Community Hospital. The original plan was to reduce the number of beds to ten general medical, but currently the number is being held at twenty while further negotiations with clinicians take place. The Task Group is aware of concerns raised by North Wilts District Council and by doctors in the Chippenham area and will endeavour to hear from all parties prior to reporting back to the Committee.
10. Other areas that will be picked up include the programme for the development of primary care centres and the range of associated services. The Task Group will visit the first new build in the county at Malmesbury to see at first hand how services can be delivered in the future.
11. Primary care centres are also planned for Devizes, Westbury and Trowbridge. As reported at the last meeting of the Committee, there will also be a Darzi Centre somewhere in the county.
12. It is intended that the Task Group will meet frequently over the next six months to carry out a comprehensive review of the progress being made by Wiltshire Primary Care Trust in implementing the proposals agreed by its Board in January 2007, and will report back to the Committee at the end of this period. However, short update reports will be supplied when appropriate.
13. The Task Group will be considering how the PCT is delivering on the promises it made to communities in January 2007 and will refer to the recommendations made by the Health OSC in March 2007.

Conclusions

14. Implementation of the Reforming Community Services programme is approaching its first anniversary and a significant amount of work has been done to carry out the plans agreed by the PCT Board in Jan 2007.
15. The Reforming Community Services Task Group will embark on a further series of meetings in order to assess the impact of the changes made to services under the PCT's programme of reform.
16. The Task Group will meet regularly for six months in the first instance, culminating in a comprehensive report to the Committee.

Financial Implications

11. There are no financial implications to the County Council in this report.

Recommendations

12. Members are recommended to note the report and to feed any suggestions for items to be incorporated into the Task Group work plan to the Chairman of the Task Group, the Chairman of the Committee or the Health Scrutiny Officer.

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