



Wiltshire Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES of a MEETING held at WILTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL 1st DECEMBER, 2004

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

STAKEHOLDERS: Dr P Biggs (Chairman of West Wilts PCT Patient Forum), Mr B Brown (Member of Kennet & North Wilts PCT Patient Forum) and Mr T White (Chairman of South Wilts PCT Patient Forum).

OTHERS: Mrs J Stubbings (South Wilts PCT), Mrs C Clarke (Kennet & North Wilts, & West Wilts PCTs), Dr R Jones (Wilts County Council), Mr D Harvey (Kennet & North Wilts & West Wilts PCTs), Ms. M. Gilmour (North Wilts District Council), Ms. J. Howes (Kennet District Council), Mrs J Edwards (Kennet & North Wilts & West Wilts PCTs). Mr N. Westbrook (Health Advocacy Partnership), Mrs G Holland (Chairman of Ambulance Trust Patient Forum), Mr T Carbin, Mrs J Cole (User & Carers' Network) and Ms J Naylor (Wilts County Council).

Members of the public present: 3

46. Apologies

Apologies were sent by Mr P Allnatt, Mrs K Dixon (NWDC) and Mr W. Moss.

47. Chairman's Announcements

Health Scrutiny Officer The Chairman announced that this would be the last meeting at which Jo Naylor, would be in post as the Health Scrutiny Officer. He acknowledged the leading role she played in reshaping the health scrutiny arrangements in Wiltshire and the support given to members through her knowledge of health issues and the health scrutiny legislation. The Chairman wished her well in her new role at West Berkshire Council.

48. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolved: To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 26th October 2004 as a true record.

49. Chief Executives' Joint Presentation of the Financial Position of the Wiltshire PCTs

Mrs J Stubbings (South Wilts PCT), Mrs C Clarke (Kennet & North Wilts & West Wilts PCTs) and Mr D Harvey (Kennet & North Wilts & West Wilts PCTs) made a verbal representation to the Committee outlining the PCTs financial position.

The presentation included facts in relation to:

- Local PCTs are overspending not under-funded.
- Per capita basis of funding for PCTs (York Formulae) however this does not include weighting for 'sparsity' in rural areas.
- The Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic Health Authority (AGW SHA) borrowed money from NHS bank (from 03-04 to 05-06) but this system will cease to exist.
- Previous discussions with the AGW SHA and the Dept of Health have indicated that £90 million of inherited debt arising from the acute Trusts may be written off but there is no absolute confirmation of this.
- Within the Kennet & North Wiltshire PCT area over £10 million savings per year need to be found to address the recurrent spend.
- PCTs have difficult decisions to make without wanting to 'destabilise' the whole of the equilibrium of the Wiltshire health and social care environment.
- Opportunity for closer working with between PCTs is being explored.

Resolved:

- (i) *To thank and note the presentation delivered by the Primary Care Trusts' Chief Executives and the Financial Director.*
- (ii) *The Chairman is to write to the AGW Strategic Health Authority and the Secretary of State for Health expressing the concern about the unrealistic targets being set to reconfigure services and obtain financial balance by March 2005. Such targets for service reconfigurations should be delivered in a suitable timescale ensuring that adequate alternative service provision is available and implemented only after proper consultation.*
- (iii) *To encourage the Wiltshire Primary Care Trusts' to consider viable merger opportunities to reduce the management overheads and simplify the healthcare system in Wiltshire.*
- (iv) *To arrange a further closed meeting to be held at the earliest opportunity to discuss financial issues and scenarios of service change with the Chief Executives of the Primary Care Trust.*

50. Health OSC Work Programme

Members considered the updated Work Programme for December.

Resolved:

- (i) *To note the updated Work Programme.*
- (ii) *To amend the wording in the Work Programme to read “reconfiguration of services and financial recovery plans”.*

51. Update on Maternity Services

Members were informed about the Health Minister - John Hutton's response to the Committee's referral of maternity services reconfigurations in the Kennet & North Wiltshire area, under the health scrutiny legislation. It was felt that some review of the process was required in order to make a formal response to the Secretary of State, Minister of Health and local NHS bodies.

Resolved:

- (i) *To reconvene the Maternity Task Group to consider the formal response received from the Minister of Health in relation to the Health Scrutiny referral of maternity services in Kennet & North Wiltshire.*
- (ii) *To hold discussions with the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) and the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) to review the referral process and outcome.*
- (iii) *That following a review of the process a formal response to the outcome of the referral is sent to the Minister of Health, the Secretary of State, the Kennet & North Wiltshire Primary Care Trust and the AGW Strategic Health Authority.*

52. Bath Royal United Hospital (RUH)

The Committee received a strategic document developed over two stakeholder days. The Chairman of this Committee notified all members that the Bath RUH Patients' Forum had been well engaged in the process of developing the strategy and were supportive of the findings relayed in the document.

Resolved:

- (i) *To request that the RUH Patients Forum continues to engage with the Bath RUH on its future Strategic Direction.*
- (ii) *To ask the Bath RUH to notify the Wiltshire Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee should any substantial variation to service be proposed in the future.*
- (iii) *Mr P Allnatt be nominated to sit on the Patients' Forum Joint Committee which has been established to review proposals arising from the Bath RUH.*

53. Date of Next Meeting

Next scheduled meeting will be 9th March 2005.

54. Task Group on Mental Health Service Reconfigurations in South Wiltshire

We have been notified that the consultation commenced on the 5th November, this would mean, following the recommendation of the Health OSC to engage in a 16-week consultation period, the close of the consultation would be 25th February. In order to prevent the need to schedule a further Health OSC meeting it is recommended that a one-off task group be established to provide a formal response to the South Wilts PCT prior to the close of the consultation period.

Resolved:

- (i) *To establish a Task Group for one meeting only to formulate a response to South Wilts PCT on the detail contained in the proposals on behalf of the Health OSC.*
- (ii) *To include the views expressed and discussed at the last meeting on 26th October 2004.*
- (iii) *The formal response is submitted by the close of the consultation period (25th February, 2005).*
- (iv) *The named Task Group members are: Mr W. Moss (nominated in his absence), Mrs. M. Groom, Mr T. White (South Wilts Patient Forum Chairman) and Mr M. Hewitt.*
- (v) *Support for the Task Group was offered from the Health Advocacy Partnership (HAP) and User & Carers Representative was invited to attend.*

(Duration of meeting: 2.00 pm – 4.15 pm)

The Officer who has produced these notes is Jo Naylor, Health Scrutiny Officer within Democratic & Members' Services, direct line (01225) 713004; e-mail jonaylor@wiltshire.gov.uk