



Wiltshire Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES of a MEETING held at WILTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL 29 JUNE 2005

PRESENT: County Councillors: Mr R While (elected as Chairman), Dr J English (elected as Vice Chairman), Mrs M Groom, Mrs P Rugg, Mr J Noeken (substitute for Mrs C Soden), Mrs M White, Mrs B Wayman, Mrs J Rooke, Mr J Osborn
District Councillors: Mrs P Winchcombe (Kennet District Council), Mr M Hewitt & Mr P Paisey (Salisbury District Council), Mrs J Wood (North Wiltshire District Council), Mr G Cox (West Wiltshire District Council)

STAKEHOLDERS: Mr T White (Chairman of South Wilts PCT Patient Forum), Dr P Biggs (Chairman of West Wilts PCT Patients Forum) Mrs J Cole (User & Carers' Network).

OTHERS: Frank Harsent, Chief Executive, Salisbury Healthcare NHS Trust; Maggie Cherry, Head of Patient & Public Involvement, Salisbury Healthcare NHS Trust; Trevor Jones, Chief Executive, Avon Gloucestershire & Wiltshire Strategic Health Authority; Graham Bennet, Acting Director of Finance, Avon Gloucestershire & Wiltshire Strategic Health Authority; Jan Stubbings, Chief Executive, South Wiltshire Primary Care Trust; Sally Banister, Joint Commissioning and Service Development Manager, South Wiltshire Primary Care Trust; Nicholas Gillard, Director of Planning & Partnerships, Kennet, North and West Wilts Primary Care Trusts; Philip Selwood, Chief Executive, Wiltshire & Gloucestershire Ambulance Trusts; Dr Ray Jones, Director of Adult and Community Services, Wiltshire County Council; Chris Chorley, Assistant Director, Adult & Community Services, Wiltshire County Council; Mandy Bradley, Kennet District Council; Richard Rogers, West Wiltshire District Council; Miranda Gilmour, North Wiltshire District Council; June Sadd, Wiltshire & Swindon Users Network

Members of the public present: 3

24. Apologies

Apologies were sent by Marie Laws

25. Election of Chairman & Vice Chairman

It was resolved to elect Mr R S While as the Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

It was resolved to appoint Dr J M English as Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

26. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolved:

To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2005 as a true record.

26. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman announced that South Wiltshire PCT has submitted an impact assessment on proposals to change some elements of the out of hour's service in the area, which were deemed unsubstantial. A copy of the Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership has closed eight beds in the Charter House unit in Trowbridge on a temporary basis due to staff shortages. Kennet & North Wiltshire PCT has closed the maternity unit at Malmesbury on a temporary basis due to staff shortages.

27. Member's Interests

Cllr G Cox declared that he is a member of the Wiltshire & Swindon User's Network.

28. Public Participation

The committee heard a statement from Richard Bolton of the Greencroft New Alliance in Salisbury in response to the item on the agenda concerning mental health day services in South Wiltshire.

29. Salisbury District General Hospital – Foundation Trust Application

The committee received a presentation from Frank Harsent, Chief Executive of Salisbury Healthcare NHS Trust, about the principles behind and the benefits of, bidding for Foundation status.

Mr Harsent agreed to return to the next meeting of the committee in September to talk through the specific proposals for Salisbury District General Hospital.

Mr Harsent briefly outlined the nature of the patient and public involvement work and the public consultation the Trust intends to carry out.

Members raised a number of questions and agreed that further detailed questions regarding the particulars of the Trust's bid should be put to Mr Harsent at a later date.

Members from the South Wiltshire area who have been involved in discussions with the Trust already expressed their approval of the direction the Trust is taking.

Resolved:

To invite Mr Harsent to attend the next meeting of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 14 September 2005.

To agree a set of questions to put to the Trust, the commissioning Wiltshire PCT and the Patient and Public Involvement Forums operating in the area.

30. Ambulance Services in Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire

Trevor Jones, Chief Executive of Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic Health Authority (AGW SHA) introduced Philip Selwood, new Chief Executive of Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Ambulance Trusts, before giving a presentation on the proposals for changes to the organisational structure of the three Ambulance Trusts in the AGW SHA area.

Mr Jones stated that the three Trusts are finding it difficult to achieve all the targets set by the Department of Health and that the purpose of the proposed changes is to make improvements across the three county areas.

It was reported that the Secretary of State for Health would have to formally dissolve all three existing organisations and create a new one if it was agreed that this proposal is in the interests of the Ambulance service in Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire.

An amalgamation would make the combined Trust the twelfth largest in England. Currently Wiltshire and Gloucestershire are the two smallest.

There was a discussion about the benefits and pitfalls of the reorganisation, including the implications for cross boundary working, rural and urban issues, with members putting a number of questions to Mr Jones.

Resolved:

To ask the Health Scrutiny Officer to liaise with neighbouring health scrutiny committees in order to understand how they are viewing the proposals.

To reform the Ambulance Task Group as a standing reference group in order to be able to deal quickly with consultation responses or the need to work jointly with neighbouring health scrutiny committees.

It was agreed that the Task Group would be made up of:

Mr While
Mrs Groom
Mrs Winchcombe
Dr English

To participate as fully as possible in AGW SHA's planned consultation on the proposed changes.

(Following this item there was a break for coffee at 12:00)

31. South Wiltshire PCT – Further Consultation on Mental Health Day Services

The committee received a verbal presentation from Sally Banister, Joint Commissioning and Service Development Manager, outlining the PCT's plans for further consultation on day service provision within mental health services.

The committee was informed that Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust is in agreement with the proposals around which the consultation has been formed.

Chris Chorley, Assistant Director of the Department of Adult and Social Care indicated that the proposals are in line with the aims of the County Council.

Terry White, of South Wiltshire PCT Patient and Public Involvement Forum stated that the Forum is also in agreement with the proposals.

South Wiltshire PCT requested that the Mental Health Task Group, which formulated the response to the original PCT consultation at the start of the year, be reformed to work with the Trust during this further consultation.

Resolved:

To reform the mental health Task Group with Mollie Groom, Mike Hewitt, John English and Bill Moss serving as members.

To invite the South Wiltshire PCT PPIF to nominate a member to sit on the Task Group.

To invite Lynda Novak of the National Institute of Mental Health England to attend for advice and guidance.

To use the Task Group to address the concerns raised by the Greencroft Alliance, following the representation made at the start of the meeting.

To note that South Wilts PCT has decided to move ahead with plans to find solutions to the problems experienced at the industrial therapy unit at a faster pace in order to avoid temporary closures which would represent a loss of services.

32. The Financial Position of Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic Health Authority

Members received a presentation from Graham Bennett (GB), Acting Financial Director of AGW SHA. A copy of the presentation will be circulated after the meeting.

The financial recovery plans for the Wiltshire PCTs have to be agreed and signed off by AGW SHA at the end of October 2005. The SHA has to satisfy itself that the Trusts are moving towards a break-even position and are putting in place rigorous planning processes even while their service reviews are under way.

There was some discussion about the level of inherited debt from the RUH which the PCTs had taken on when they were set up, but GB denied that this had been the case, stating that the PCTs had not inherited any debt.

Resolved:

The Chairman to follow up the presentation with a visit to AGW SHA to meet with the financial director and discuss the financial situation in more detail.

33. Strategic Review in Kennet, North and West Wiltshire

Nicholas Gillard, Director of Planning and Partnerships for both PCTs, updated the committee about the first planning assembly held in Chippenham on 18 May and the review process to date.

The PCTs are now hoping to have proposals ready for full public consultation by the end of the year.

Alongside the review the PCTs are also looking at their service level agreements with partner organisations to make sure that all their financial exchanges are sound.

Members sought assurance that, if a full merger between Kennet and North Wilts PCT and West Wilts PCT does take place, the Trust with the least debt will not be used to bail out the Trust with the biggest debt.

There was some discussion about the nature of temporary closures and whether they are used to alleviate short term financial pressures, but NG assured members that services are not being closed purely to save money.

Resolved:

To note the update and invite Mr Gillard to return in September to report on the second assembly meeting.

34 Healthier Wiltshire Project / Centre for Public Scrutiny Funding Bid

The Chairman announced that, due to the length of the meeting, these two items would be held over until the September meeting when the outcome of the funding bid would be known.

35. Work Plan

Members agreed that the most effective way to review the work plan would be through a half day development session with participation from health partners and DACS.

Resolved:

To ask the Health Scrutiny Officer to organise a development session to be held in September.

36. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 14 September 2005 at 14:00 at County Hall.

37. Urgent Items

None

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

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