



Wiltshire Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES of a MEETING held at WILTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL 13 JUNE 2006

PRESENT: County Councillors; Mr While, Dr English, Mrs White, Brigadier Hall, Mr Hewson, Mrs Groom, Mrs Rugg, Mr Osborn. District Councillors; Mrs Winchcombe, Mr Hewitt, Mrs Wood, Mr Manasseh.

STAKEHOLDERS: Dr P Biggs (West Wilts PCT Patient's Forum), Mr M Griffiths (Kennet & North Wiltshire Patient's Forum), Mrs J Cole (User & Carers' Network).

OTHERS: Mr A Murrison, MP for West Wiltshire

Members of the public present: 1

1. Apologies

2. Election of Chairman

Mr While was elected as Chairman.

3. Election of Vice Chairman

Dr English was elected as Vice Chairman

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true record.

5. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed the Committee, in particular new member Mr Hewson.

6. Member's Interests

Mr Osborn – Chairman, Trowbridge Hospital League of Friends
Mr Manasseh – member of Westbury Hospital campaign group
Mrs White – trustee of the Health Advocacy Partnership

7. Public Participation

Members heard a statement from Andrew Murrison, MP, regarding Kennet & North Wilts and West Wilts PCTs public consultation on service reconfiguration.

8. Pathways for Change Task Group – Draft Response to Consultation

The Chairman thanked all the members of the committee for their attendance at the Pathways for Change public meetings and invited Dr Biggs, as Chairman of the Task Group, to introduce the findings of the Task Group.

Dr Biggs spoke about the work of the Task Group, including the monitoring, feedback from public meetings, difference in meetings depending on whether the town had a hospital, and other aspects of the consultation.

There followed a debate during which a number of questions were raised by members, which will now be put formally in writing to the PCTs.

Dr Biggs outlined some of the questions that have been asked at the public meetings, which have included; queries over the affordability of community matrons and neighbourhood teams, maternity services, the growing financial deficit, the timescale for making changes and the question of how many Primary Care Centres there will be and where.

There was some discussion about the lack of responses so far received by the PCTs. Members also raised concerns about the lack of published evidential information to underpin the proposals in the consultation document, especially regarding demographics, and also about the relationship between the consultation and the work of the turnaround director in trying to formulate a balanced Local Delivery Plan for the PCTs.

There was further discussion about the appropriateness of the consultation question which asks people to choose between Westbury and Warminster, and on what basis they are being asked to make a choice.

The timeframe for the financial recovery of social services was discussed as it has emerged that social workers will be reassessing every package of care, which could take 15 months.

Members wished to formally record their disappointment that no one from the PCT attended the meeting.

The Committee will receive the full response of the Task Group to Pathways for Change on 28 June 2006.

Resolved:

To put all the questions from this meeting regarding the proposals in writing to the PCT.

9. Mainstreaming Mental Health Task Group – Draft Response to Consultation

Mrs Winchcombe, as Chairman of the Task Group, introduced this item and made a number of comments; most people attending the Pathways for Change meetings leave before the Mainstreaming Mental Health section, the Task Group has toured all the sites affected and has spoken to staff who displayed mixed reactions to the proposals.

Members noted that people who did stay for the MMH section of the public meetings often spoke with more passion, because tend to have experience of the service through loved ones and relatives. It was also noted that the delivery of the presentations has been very good, with Peter Wilson of the mental health trust receiving a round of applause in one case.

There was some discussion of the issues faced in South Wiltshire, which has already been through this process, and the lessons that can be learned from that.

The Task Group members felt they had received a lot of co-operation from the mental health trust and the process has felt open and transparent.

There was some discussion about the problems in separating mental and physical illness and the need for integration.

The Committee will receive the full response of the Mainstreaming Mental Health on 28 June 2006.

10. Council's Budget 2006-07 - Corporate Recovery Plan

The Chairman confirmed that the Task Group to look at the Council's Corporate Recovery Plan has been put in place and the membership was confirmed as being:

Brigadier Hall
Mr Moss
Mr Coleman
Mr Osborn
Mrs Rooke
Mrs White

June Sadd, of the Wiltshire & Swindon User's Network asked that, as with previous Task Groups, the Network be given observer status on the Task Group as there is great likelihood of changes to social care during the course of the financial recovery.

11. Date of Next Meeting

13 September 2006 – 14:30

(Duration of the meeting 14:30 – 16:00)

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