

## KENNET DISTRICT COUNCIL

### EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber,  
Browfort, Bath Road, Devizes on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2006 at 2.15 pm

**PRESENT:** Councillor J J Kunkler - Chairman

Councillor B G Ashley	Councillor D T B Hunter
Councillor K R F Beard	Councillor J G Ody
Councillor J A Booth	Councillor R T Parsons
Councillor G Brewer	Councillor J D Pearcy-Caldwell
Councillor P A Brown	Councillor P W Richardson
Councillor D D Campbell	Councillor A H Still
Councillor Mrs T M Carr	Councillor C R W Stone
Councillor N D Carter	Councillor Mrs M S N Taylor
Councillor W B Cavill	Councillor B J Twigger
Councillor P L Colling	Councillor P N Veasey
Councillor Mrs J K Combe	Councillor D J Willmott
Councillor P Evans	Councillor Mrs P M Winchcombe
Councillor Mrs S M Findlay	Councillor A S Wood
Councillor Mrs E M Hannaford-Dobson	
Councillor Mrs A Hayhoe	
Councillor C P Humphries	

#### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Councillor A P J Duck	Councillor Mrs N G Rawlins
Councillor J N Fogg	Councillor Dr J P M Reid
Councillor L H Grundy	Councillor A Skittrall
Councillor C P G Hoddinott	
Councillor A Molland	

#### **PART 1**

##### **Items considered whilst the public were entitled to be present**

#### **44. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

The Chairman reminded members that whilst they may have expressed views on the subject under discussion prior to the meeting they should approach the debate with an open mind.

The Democratic Services Team Leader, Mr P G Hamilton, declared a personal interest in the matter as his step daughter was a nurse working in a mental health establishment.

#### **45. PATHWAYS FOR CHANGE – HEALTH SERVICE CONSULTATIONS**

The Chairman reminded the Council that the extraordinary meeting had been called to discuss the two consultation documents entitled:

“Taking the next step: modern and affordable healthcare for all”, and

“Mainstreaming Mental Health. Creating effective and sustainable mental health services for Kennet, North and West Wiltshire”.

Members were reminded that the two documents had been previously circulated and had been the subject of a seminar on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2006.

The Chairman informed members that he would be dealing with each of the documents separately.

The Vice-Chairman of the Council then proposed a motion in response to the consultation document “Taking the next step: modern and affordable healthcare for all” and circulated a written copy to each member. This motion was duly seconded.

Members gave careful and detailed consideration to the proposals and a number of amendments were proposed and voted on.

#### **RESOLVED:**

#### **THAT**

Kennet District Council (KDC) acknowledges and deplores the severe financial crisis facing the Kennet and North Wiltshire and West Wiltshire Primary Care Trusts (the PCTs) and the inevitable impact this will have on service provision for the District, particularly in the rural communities. It is also mindful of the Government’s drive to modernise services as outlined in the White Paper and the pressure this places on the PCTs.

However the document as presented with it’s three options does little to address the financial position of both PCTs and provides no commitment to the provision of new services prior to removal or re-shaping of existing ones. For example Option One would leave Kennet without inpatient bed provision and Options Two and Three would greatly reduce the numbers available to residents.

KDC will seek to work with the PCTs and their successor organisations to ensure equity of access to services for all Kennet residents within these constraints.

KDC therefore wishes to make a number of critical comments which are divided into areas of general concern and specifics by way of formal response to the consultation document.

### Key concerns:

1. KDC is concerned that all the options given in the consultation paper result in a reduction of primary care services to the majority of Kennet. The Authority also has concern as to whether the 'community care' service model outlined in all the proposals will be successful in our area and requires more evidence that this model has worked successfully elsewhere in the country.
2. KDC is anxious that none of the proposed options make a significant impact on the savings needed by the PCTs. The Authority is therefore concerned as to how the PCTs will find additional savings and the impact this will have on staffing, commissioning of acute services, funding with partners and the impact on long term care where there are also health needs.
3. The PCTs proposals are underpinned by the engagement of local GPs. KDC sees no substantive evidence of this engagement and has reservations regarding the over-reliance on GPs and therefore the robustness of the proposals. KDC reminds the PCT that GP support is fundamental to the creation of the new Primary Care Centres, and that this must be in place before the withdrawal of existing services.
4. KDC has concerns about the withdrawal of services without alternatives in place. The PCTs must do more by way of commitment to instill more confidence in the public and stakeholders regarding future service provision. It is essential that any new acceptable service is in place before the withdrawal of any service.
5. As a rural authority KDC is concerned about access to services under the proposals, specifically the impact of transport on its residents needing to use services. The Authority feels that more attention should be given to the impact of transport when developing each of these options. In addition, KDC will require a full travel impact assessment with regard to any preferred option once this is known. Any consultation with regard to transport should include Wiltshire County Council as Transport Authority.
6. Insufficient attention has been given to the needs of carers and the provision of respite care and KDC is gravely concerned about their provision. All the proposals rely on the role of carers to a disproportional extent.
7. KDC seeks assurances that none of the PCT options prevent patient access to services in other areas in line with the Governments commitment to 'patient choice'.

### Comments on specific proposals:

#### 1. Neighbourhood Teams

KDC has reservations over the robustness and sustainability of these teams.

#### 2. Primary Care Centres (PCCs)

KDC is concerned that 6 PCCs are now proposed without any apparent increase in funding.

KDC welcomes the proposal to locate a PCC in Devizes. Our preferred location is on the current vacant Green Lane site which is NHS owned. The Authority asks the PCTs to look at this as an opportunity to develop the site as per the Malmesbury/Ledbury model with provision for inpatient beds and diagnostics, some maternity provision and facilities to deal with minor injuries possibly through the neighbourhood teams, Wiltshire Medical Services or GPs. KDC welcomes the provision of these services by public or private provider.

The Council does not want to see any reduction in the level of services currently provided by Devizes hospital and Devizes Clinic although accepts that the nature of the services may change from that currently existing.

KDC strongly encourages the PCT to consider the provision of services in the south east corner of the Kennet District and look at the opportunities to work alongside the MOD to make more effective and inclusive use (ie the wider community) of existing services, including Amesbury.

### 3. New Generation Community Hospitals (NGCHs)

KDC is dismayed that the PCTs propose to close Devizes Community Hospital under all three options. It is hoped that the provision of a new PCC in Devizes with enhanced services as outlined in 2 above will compensate for the loss of this service.

KDC supports the retention of Savernake as a New Generation Community Hospital, or as a minimum, a hybrid NGCH/PCC

KDC is supportive in principle of a NGCH at Melksham that would serve the Devizes area but would like to receive further information as to the exact location of this facility.

### 4. Minor Injuries Units (MIUs)

KDC would like to see the MIUs at both Savernake and Devizes retained with extended hours. The Authority would however like to see this service supplemented by the greater use of Wiltshire Medical Services or neighbourhood teams for minor injuries out of hours.

KDC wishes to see the publication of early information by the PCTs to inform residents of the MIUs, their opening hours and the nature of the service they offer.

### 5. Maternity

KDC supports the existing award winning model of midwife led maternity care and does not wish to see any diminution of this service.

The authority whilst seeing the advantages of rationalising midwifery on one site (Chippenham) is dismayed at the proposed closure of the midwifery unit at Devizes

Community Hospital. It is essential that expectant mothers can maintain their choice of care either at home, in a NGCH (albeit a choice of 1) or at a major NHS hospital.

The Authority urges the PCT to make provision on the Green Lane site for limited birthing arrangements (a 'Domino' facility) for urgent need or very short term (less than 24hrs) stay.

The Vice-Chairman of Council then proposed a further motion in respect of the documents "Mainstreaming Mental Health, Creating effective and sustainable mental health services for Kennet, North and West Wiltshire", and again circulated a printed version to each member of the council. The motion was duly seconded.

A number of amendments were proposed and seconded, debated and voted on.

**RESOLVED:**

**THAT**

Kennet District Council (KDC) acknowledges and deplores the financial constraints on the Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership (AWP) and the impact that this will have on the residents of Kennet, particularly the rural communities.. The Authority therefore wishes to work with the AWP to ensure equity of access to services for all Kennet residents within this constraint.

KDC supports the principle of mainstreaming of Mental Health with primary care but would wish to see new arrangements put in place before current services are withdrawn or re-shaped. KDC supports the retention of integrated beds at Savernake.

The council is also supportive of the provision of a place of safety for admissions under section 136 of the Mental Health Act at Green Lane.

However the authority does have a number of critical concerns:

- KDC is concerned regarding the robustness and sustainability of the community teams. There are also concerns over staffing levels required and the health and safety issues of working in the community.
- There are concerns over the integration of health teams and also how crisis care would be managed.
- This model of care (caring for people in their own homes) could leave those who are vulnerable in an isolated position.
- KDC is gravely concerned regarding the extra burden this model places on carers and the voluntary sector generally.
- KDC needs to see evidence of transport issues being adequately addressed as again the burden would fall on the voluntary sector.
- There appears to be limited provision in the proposals for respite care or day care facilities which are essential for carers and patients.
- KDC has concern regarding the impact of the proposals on GPs who may have to deal with more patients presenting with mental health problems.

- KDC is concerned that older adults needing specialist beds will be required under the proposals to travel to Amblescroft in Salisbury– albeit with new specialist facilities.
- KDC notes with concern that the AWP proposals rely on the outcome of the Kennet and North Wiltshire and West Wiltshire Primary Care Trusts Pathways for Change consultation when this is currently unknown.

## **PART 2**

**Items considered whilst the public were excluded from the meeting.**

**NONE**

Chairman  
25<sup>th</sup> July 2006