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Wiltshire Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

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

PRESENT: County Councillors; Dr J English, Brigadier Hall, Mr J Osborn, Mrs P Rugg, Mrs J Seager, Mr R While (Chair), Mrs M White. District Councillors; Mrs P Winchcombe (Kennet District Council), Mr M Hewitt (Salisbury District Council), Mr E Manasseh (West Wiltshire District Council), Mrs J Wood (North Wiltshire District Council).

STAKEHOLDERS: Dr P Biggs, Mr M Griffiths, T White (Wiltshire Patient's Forum), Anna Farquhar (Great Western Ambulance Trust PPIF), Helen Thompson (AWP PPIF), Mrs J Cole (User & Carers' Network).

OTHERS: Sue Redmond, Jeanette Longhurst, Jo Howes, Ceri Williams (Wiltshire County Council), Malcolm Sinclair (Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership), Nicholas Gillard, Jenny Edwards (Wiltshire Primary Care Trust)

Members of the public present:

1. Apologies

Mollie Groom, Patrick Paisey, June Sadd, June Wood, Mandy Bradley, Helen Karn, Lyn Hill-Tout.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Two amendments were made. Firstly to include John English as an attendee at the last meeting. Secondly to include the comment, under the section on Mainstreaming Mental Health, that the Task Group would continue to monitor the changes as they happen.

3. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed the new director of Community Services at the County Council, Sue Redmond, to the meeting.

4. Member's Interests

Jeff Osborn, Chair, Trowbridge Hospital League of Friends

5. Public Participation

6. Pathways for Change

Members received a verbal update on the Pathways for Change process from Nicholas Gillard (NG) of Wiltshire PCT. NG acknowledged the widespread concern about the delay and confirmed that decisions on Pathways for Change, Mainstreaming Mental Health and two primary care developments in South Wilts would be made by the PCT on 16 January 2007.

Following further questions NG confirmed that papers for this meeting are due to go out on 9 January and the final recommendations to the Board will be published at this time.

The PCT has had a number of further stakeholder meetings recently with the PPI Forums, the Strategic Health Authority, the District Councils, the MPs and others in an attempt to refresh peoples' understanding of the PCTs position following the consultation.

The PCT is also in the process of getting all the relevant paperwork up together prior to the PCT Board meeting.

The Committee then received an update from the Pathways for Change Task Group. Peter Biggs (PB), Chairman of the Task Group, stated that the group has been very concerned about the delay and looked forward to finally hearing the decisions on 16 January before reporting back to the full Committee.

The Chairman confirmed that there would be an extra meeting of the Committee to deal with the outcomes of Pathways for Change on 12 February 2007.

7. Mainstreaming Mental Health

The Committee received an update from Malcolm Sinclair (MS) of Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership Trust. Three main issues covered were:

- Board decisions taken
- Speed of change
- Medium and long term future

MS confirmed that the stage one proposals that mainly focussed on primary care were in the process of being implemented.

Stage 2 proposals relate more to bed-based provision. Charter House is not going to be closed in the short term, partly because staff raised concerns about closing it now, moving people to Green Lane and moving them again when new generation community hospitals were in place. So Charter will stay in place until the new generation hospitals are commissioned.

Some proposals for older adults are having to take place more quickly due to staff shortages at Green Lane hospital. Staff have told managers that they are increasingly unable to cope. A number of older adults will therefore be moved to Amblescroft in Salisbury, as per the agreed proposals.

The Trust is putting a lot of effort into managing change to ensure that staff don't see the accelerated timeframe as a deviation.

Members were pleased that some elderly patients would not have to move twice, as was originally planned.

MS stated that, as services evolved, people from Wiltshire would also be able to access services in Swindon and Bath.

It was agreed that:

There would be a meeting between the Trust and the Mainstreaming Mental Health Task Group in early January to enable the Trust to further discuss the changes with members.

8. Great Western Ambulance Trust

The committee were informed of the nature of correspondence from the Great Western Ambulance Trust, and of the need for an extra meeting to enable the trust to introduce its plans for service and organisational changes. The special meeting would also enable the Committee to debate whether public consultation is needed regarding any proposed changes and, if so, to open dialogue with the trust about how and when this should be carried out.

Members expressed concern that it has taken such a long time to obtain a date for the Ambulance Trust to meet with the Committee.

There was some discussion of the Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service's decision to alter the way it responds to Ambulance Service calls, although the Fire Service does intend to continue with the service in some form.

It was noted that there is a great deal of concern amongst voluntary services, such as LINK, about the fact that statutory bodies appear to be relying more and more heavily on their services.

It was agreed to:

Arrange a meeting with the Great Western Ambulance Trust at the earliest opportunity.

9. Annual Healthcheck – 2006/7

A report was circulated outlining the timeframe for the submission of final declarations by trusts for the Annual Healthcheck, which monitors performance of trusts. Members considered the recommendations and agreed upon a process for providing comments on the final declarations from the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

It was agreed to:

Obtain availability for all members for the dates given (27th & 28th Feb) and to arrange with Trusts to attend sessions accordingly.

10. Health Scrutiny Support Programme – Update for Information

The committee were informed of the decisions taken by the working party, on behalf of the committee, which was set up after the last meeting to formulate an outline plan for how to use the support days provided by the Centre for Public Scrutiny as part of the Health Scrutiny Support Programme.

11. Monitoring Changes in Social Care Services Task Group

At the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee meeting on 9 November, a task group was established to review social care transitional arrangements and the development of the community sector following a review of eligibility criteria. Five members were appointed, one of which was to represent the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee. The chairman was approached to name the member in order that initial discussions could be held. The Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee's resolution included the following in relation to this task group:

To establish a scrutiny task group, in response to the first 3 recommendations contained within paragraph 39 of the report, to review DACS proposals for:

- (i) Transitional arrangements for all client groups*
- (ii) Development of the local voluntary and community sectors in Wiltshire*
- (iii) Future involvement of users and carers.*

To appoint 5 members to serve on the Task Group, including 1 member co-opted from the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to reflect the close relationship between health and social care. In the first instance, the Task Group to report to the Management Committee 12 weeks following its first meeting, and to consult with the Cabinet Member(s) for Adult Care Services and the Director of Adult and Community Services over the scope of the review.

The committee agreed to retrospectively endorse the appointment made by the Chairman for Mike Hewitt to represent the Health OSC.

12. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 12 February 2007.

(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