

South West Strategic Health Authority

Minutes of the South West Strategic Health Authority held in the Board Room, Southgate House, Pans Lane, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 5EQ on 20 November 2008.

EXTRACT FROM: **Minutes**

- Present:** Sir Michael Pitt, Chairman
 Mr J Bewick, Director of Strategic Development
 Sir Ian Carruthers OBE, Chief Executive
 Dr M Durkin, Medical Director
 Mr A Millward, Director of Communications and Corporate Services
 Ms L Redfern, Director of Patient Care and Nursing
 Dr G Scally, Regional Director of Public Health
 Mr W Shields, Director of Finance and Performance
 Mr J Vickers, Non-Executive Member
 Professor S West, Non-Executive Member
 Mr G Wilkinson, Non-Executive Member
 Mr J Wolfe, Interim Director of Workforce Development
- In Attendance:** Mr R Checketts, Associate Director of Programme Implementation
 Mr M Cochrane, Associate Director of Strategic Service Change
 Ms S Cook, Private Secretary (Organisation)
 Mrs J Hobbs, Support Services Manager (Board and Committees)
 Mrs V Partridge, Private Secretary (Board and Committees)
 Mr G Upton, Strategic Service Change Manager
- Mr T Barron, Chairman, Wiltshire Primary Care Trust
 Ms A Knowles, Director of Communications and Corporate Services
- Nine members of the public
- Apologies:** Mr R Caves, Director of Information Management and Technology
 Ms A Ryan, Non-Executive Member

SWSHA 162/2008 Petition for the Reopening of Melksham Minor Injuries Unit received on 29 July 2008

The meeting considered the Petition for the Reopening of Melksham Minor Injuries Unit received on 29 July 2008, paper SWSHA 2008/69, and **noted** that:

- on 30 January 2007, Wiltshire Primary Care Trust agreed the Reforming Community Services programme following two years of engagement and consultation on the Pathways for Change process which included the decision to make changes to Minor Injuries Unit services;
- the structure of the engagement and consultation process was agreed with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the local Patient and Public Involvement Forum;
- the engagement process included five stakeholder Assemblies where Melksham representatives, including patients, staff, the voluntary sector, County Councillors from the Melksham area and Town and District Council Members, were invited. A public meeting was held in Melksham on 11 May 2006;
- the proposals of Wiltshire Primary Care Trust were endorsed by the Wiltshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 1 March 2007;

- Melksham Minor Injuries Unit was closed on 1 October 2007. Residents in the Melksham Community Area can access Minor Injuries Services at either Trowbridge Community Hospital or Chippenham Community Hospital, a maximum distance of 8.2 miles;
- the views expressed by local residents concerned the:
 - * distance necessary to travel for minor injury treatment;
 - * impact that the absence of a Minor Injuries Service may have for hosting 2012 Olympic teams;
 - * request for the provision of a first aid unit or drop in centre at a general practice;
- Wiltshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee discussed Melksham Minor Injuries Unit at its meeting held on 20 November 2008 and concluded that, while the Melksham Minor Injuries Unit should not be reopened, discussions would continue with Wiltshire Primary Care Trust to address concerns relating to patient transport and publicity for the new arrangements;
- it was the responsibility of Wiltshire Primary Care Trust to commission and provide appropriate health services to meet the population need within its community;
- the role of the South West Strategic Health Authority was to ensure that Wiltshire Primary Care Trust had followed due process by establishing an engagement process with local stakeholders and that implementation of the service reconfiguration was effective. The Authority was satisfied that due process had been followed.

The South West Strategic Health Authority **noted** the Petition for the Reopening of Melksham Minor Injuries Unit received on 29 July 2008 and concluded that:

- it was the responsibility of Wiltshire Primary Care Trust to commission and provide appropriate health services to meet the population need within its community. This was achieved through an engagement process with key stakeholders, the balanced consideration of views and agreeing and implementing services for the benefit of the whole community;
- the role of the South West Strategic Health Authority was to ensure that Primary Care Trusts followed due process by establishing an engagement process with local stakeholders and that the implementation of the service reconfiguration is effective;
- Wiltshire Primary Care Trust agreed the changes with the Wiltshire Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 1 March 2007. The requirements for consultation had therefore been undertaken and the issue remained a matter for Wiltshire Primary Care Trust.