

North Somerset Council – Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Responses to Great Western Ambulance Joint Health Committee's Recommendations relevant to North Somerset Council

1. Interim Report and Recommendations October 2008

Recommendation 4:

That all local authorities work with GWAS to explore options to increase awareness and encourage recruitment of the Community First Responder scheme within their local communities based on areas of greatest need.

Response: The Chairman and Vice Chairman are progressing work in this regard.

Recommendation 5:

That individual PCTs make their local Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) aware of work that is taking place to review the commissioning of urgent care services in their area and actively engage HOSCS in commissioning decisions. And

Recommendation 11:

That individual HOSCs consider requesting an update from the PCT regarding the development of local urgent care strategies with a view to ensuring that:

- **The needs of local communities are being met**
- **Local people have the opportunity to comment on proposals**
- **Key messages are communicated locally to inform expectations**

Response: GWAS reports to this Panel on a regular basis and it is the intention of the Panel to invite a member of LiNKS to join the Panel.

Recommendation 10:

That North Somerset Council, Bristol City Council and South Gloucestershire Council continue to work with their local PCTs and acute trusts to monitor performance at Weston and Frenchay hospitals respectively and to keep the Joint Committee informed of progress and that relevant parts of individual HOSC minutes are forwarded to the Joint Committee for its information.

Response: Weston Hospital and GWAS have been asked to provide a joint report to this Panel at their February 2009 meeting.

In future, Officers will provide the Joint Committee with extracts from the Panel minutes relevant to GWAS.

Recommendation 16:

That the Chair of each HOSC in the GWAS region be requested to arrange for details of arrangements within their local authority to promote positive action (in relation to diversity of the workforce), to be forwarded to the Director of HR & Organisational Development within GWAS to enable the sharing of good practice.

Response: That Officers arrange for the relevant details to be passed to GWAS.

2. Review of the Operation of the Great Western Ambulance Joint Health Scrutiny Committee February – October 2008

Recommendation 1:

That the Joint Committee works with individual HOSCs and GWAS to agree a process for responding to proposals to significantly vary or develop services.

Response: That the three Members representing this Council on the Joint Committee work with the Joint Committee to develop a process for responding to proposals to significantly vary or develop services not specific to North Somerset only. However, this Panel would still expect GWAS to keep them informed of any proposals or significant changes specific to North Somerset.

Recommendation 2:

That the Joint Committee regularly monitors any costs incurred by individual local authorities in supporting the work of the Committee to determine whether participating local authorities should be requested to make a small contribution to meet these costs in the future.

Response: The Panel notes that the all Scrutiny Officers supporting the Joint Committee have agreed arrangements to share the tasks involved in supporting the Joint Committee with effect from 2009, which should avoid the need for a financial contribution to any one Council.

Recommendation 3:

That the Joint Committee reviews its Terms of Reference to clarify its remit and that of individual HOSCs to scrutinise matters relating to GWAS and the obligations of GWAS to meet request for information and to attend Joint Committee or individual HOSC meetings.

Response: The Panel is satisfied that the Terms of Reference (Revised October 2008) are clear in this regard.

Recommendation 4 and 5:

These recommendations refer to individual HOSCS being updated about the work of the Joint Committee and the Joint Committee being advised of work undertaken by individual HOSCs.

Response: The Joint Committee is on the Panel's Work Plan and is therefore referred to at every meeting of the Panel. The Panel notes that Officers will be providing the Joint Committee with extracts from the Panel minutes relevant to GWAS.

Recommendation 13:

That there remains a need for the Great Western Ambulance Joint Health Scrutiny Committee and that all participating local authorities are requested to confirm their continued commitment to participating in the Joint Committee.

Response: The Panel remains committed to participating in the Joint Committee.

Recommendation 14:

This recommendation refers to the Chairman writing to the Chairs of all HOSCs seeking their approval of the revised Terms of Reference.

Response: The Panel supports the revised Terms of Reference (Revised October 2008).