

MINUTES

Meeting: EXTRAORDINARY MARLBOROUGH COMMUNITY AREA BOARD
Place: Marlborough Town Hall, Marlborough, SN8 1AA
Date: Wednesday 23 September 2009
Start: 7.00pm
Finish: 9.05pm

Please direct any enquiries on these Minutes to:

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In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Chris Humphries (Chairman), Peggy Dow, Jemima Milton

Parish and Town Councils

Marlborough Town Council – Caroline Jackson, Alexander Kirk Wilson Andrew Ross

Avebury Parish Council – J Baldrey

Baydon Parish Council – Michael Edmonds

Fyfield & West Overton Parish Council – Tim Butler and S Rogers

Ogbourne St George Parish Council – Keith Wallace

Mildenhall Parish Council – Nigel Thomson

Ramsbury & Axford Parish Council – Sheila Glass

Savernake Parish Council – Joan Davies

Officers

Julia Densham (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

Partners

NHS Wiltshire – Tony Barron (Chairman), Jeff James (Chief Executive), Alison Knowles (Director of Corporate Affairs and Communications), Maggie Rae (Joint Director of Public Health), Jo Howes (Community Engagement Manager)

Marlborough and Villages Community Area Partnership – Richard Pitts (Chairman) and Diann Barnett

Member of Parliament

Michael Ancram

Members of Public in Attendance: 89

<u>Agenda Item No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>	<u>Action By</u>
1.	<p><u>Chairman's Welcome and Introductions</u></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the extraordinary meeting of the Marlborough Area Board. This meeting was convened in partnership with NHS Wiltshire to address the issue of health services in the Marlborough area in light of the judicial review on Savernake Hospital.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Nick Fogg, Vice-Chairman of the Area Board, Cllr Tony Prior (Chairman of Baydon Parish Council), Cllr Bob Gutherson (Berwick Bassett and Winterbourne Monkton Parish Council), Group Manager Rob Wild and Mike Matthews (Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service), Inspector Andy Noble (Wiltshire Police) and Karen Davis (Marlborough Area Extended Schools Network.)</p>	
3.	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Chairman's Announcements</u></p> <p>It was announced that Tesco would be available for consultation on their proposed plans at the Salisbury Road site on 25 September and also at Marlborough Town Hall on 26 September 2009 from 10.00am to 3.00pm.</p>	
5.	<p><u>NHS Wiltshire</u></p> <p>The Joint Director of Public Health, Maggie Rae, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the current community health profile of the Marlborough area. The data helped to determine the specific needs of the community and highlighted the health inequalities of some rural areas. Lifestyle choices were considered to be as important as NHS services in promoting good health. Other health issues considered included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teenage pregnancy • Traffic accidents • Alcoholism • Childhood obesity 	

b.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smoking • Domestic violence <p>End-of-life needs were also considered. Other indicators were asthma, diabetes and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. All these health issues drove the commissioning process and the future design of NHS services.</p> <p>The Director of Corporate Affairs and Communications, Alison Knowles, presented the financial details of providing a health service in Wiltshire and more specifically in the Marlborough area. Primary care services included two main general practice surgeries, two pharmacies and three NHS dental contracts (with further growth planned for 2010.) In addition, the following information was presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dental services were considered by the community to be the main priority. • One in three patients at the Great Western Hospital (GWH) came from the Marlborough area. • Service quality was high at the GWH with reduced waiting times and excellent standards of hygiene. • Savernake Hospital was the main local hospital and there were no plans to sell the site. • The Neighbourhood Service Teams were working closely with social care organisations. <p>Following the two presentations, questions were invited from the floor and included the following:</p> <p><i>The primary care trust had created a multi-million pound budget deficit – would this impact frontline services?</i></p> <p>The deficit had been repaid by the end of the 2008 financial year and a surplus of £1.6 million had been announced at the Annual General Meeting today.</p> <p><i>Was replacing doctors with nurse practitioners for out-of-hours services considered an erosion of service?</i></p> <p>Nurse practitioners were highly skilled in both assessments and prescribing drugs. They were performing this role during normal hours too. A mobile General Practitioner (GP) was available and currently NHS Wiltshire were tendering for a new provider. To ensure this met the needs of the rural areas, a patient user group would comment on the bids received.</p> <p><i>Would not the money being spent to send patients to GWH be better directed at Savernake Hospital?</i></p>	
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c.	<p>80% of the patients seen at GWH could not have been dealt with at a minor injuries unit.</p> <p><i>How can the reduction of GP services be considered progress?</i></p> <p>The GPs had negotiated not to be on call 24 hours per day and had no statutory obligation to provide such a service. Given that this situation was non-negotiable, the challenge was to find a way of working round it with the new out-of-hours contract that was currently out to tender.</p> <p><i>How could NHS Wiltshire justify the additional cost of travelling and parking to the patient now travelling to GWH rather than Savernake Hospital?</i></p> <p>NHS Wiltshire was the main funding body for GWH and as such demanded excellent services for its patients from the Marlborough area.</p> <p>The Chief Executive of NHS Wiltshire, Jeff James, gave a short presentation on the future prospects of health services in the Marlborough community area. Four themes were considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building on strengths • Developing partnerships • Extending local service provision • Facing the future financial challenge <p>The Area Board was considered to be a new forum through which the Primary Care Trust and the Council could work together with the people of the Marlborough community area.</p> <p>Discussions were taking place with GWH regarding extending services to Savernake Hospital that could include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ante- and post-natal care • Neurology • Drug therapy (cancer treatments) <p>The key test was securing clinically and financially sustainable services. Over the next three to five years, the public sector would face financial challenges not seen for 30 years. The combination of longer life, better drugs and increasing patient expectations would challenge the delivery of services. This would require different ways of working</p>	
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<p>and increased efficiencies.</p> <p>Following the presentation, questions were invited from the floor and included the following:</p> <p><i>Why couldn't Savernake Hospital have a Minor Injury Unit?</i></p> <p>With on average only 10-11 patients per day, it was not financially viable.</p> <p><i>What criteria had been set regarding the use of foreign doctors under the new out-of-hours contract?</i></p> <p>A mix of national and local standards was required along with registration of the General Medical Council that included an assessment of English language skills.</p> <p><i>Why were Treatment Centres built elsewhere when Savernake Hospital already existed?</i></p> <p>Treatment Centres exist solely for the purpose of day-surgery, not emergency treatment, and had been built to meet the needs of the former area of Avon.</p> <p><i>Support for the judicial review demonstrated the strength of local opinion. How much had its defence cost, and would this money not have been better directed towards Savernake Hospital?</i></p> <p>The defence had cost approximately £400,000 and had been necessary to ensure that the priorities for Wiltshire were balanced.</p> <p><i>Many commercial companies have to balance the needs of an emergency against that of 'business as usual'. Could not the NHS do the same at Savernake, moving doctors temporarily from regular jobs to attend emergencies so that a minor injury service could still be offered locally?</i></p> <p>This was being considered with the paramedics attached to the ambulance service. However, the resilience of such a plan would need to be well thought through given the equally critical nature of the routine work of doctors.</p> <p><i>The NHS should be about people and a duty of care, not about facts and figures. If the NHS wished to bring the community back to the table, they should invite locals to help formulate the solutions.</i></p> <p>That was the purpose of this meeting, the presentations and</p>	
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	<p>the NHS' visits to Marlborough Town Council. Facts and figures exist and often national policies conflict with local opinion. It was hoped that through the Area Board, the NHS would be able to build a new relationship with the people of the Marlborough community area.</p> <p><i>Integrated care should be considered. Would the NHS think about locating Prospect Hospice and the community teams together with an oncology service at Savernake Hospital?</i></p> <p>This idea fitted well with the NHS' objectives stated earlier in the presentations concerning end-of-life care and, as such, would be taken into the strategy.</p> <p><i>Why were there no realistic discussions between the NHS and Prospect House on end-of-life care?</i></p> <p>The NHS found it difficult to finance hospices as it took away money from other services.</p> <p><i>Why had Savernake Hospital undergone an expensive renovation programme a few years ago if services were now being reduced?</i></p> <p>Unrealistic expectations of the hospital's capabilities had been set previously that the current administration was now attempting to redress. The health scrutiny function would be looking at this issue.</p> <p><i>Reassurance was sought that the new plans would balance the needs of climate change / environmental issues.</i></p> <p>Grounding sustainability with the needs of climate change was important. The NHS wished to reduce the causes of respiratory diseases and its own carbon usage.</p> <p>While GWH was considered an excellent hospital, Savernake Hospital needed to remain a vibrant service provider for the local area.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Future Meeting Dates</u></p> <p>The dates listed on the agenda were noted.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Evaluation and Close</u></p> <p>The Chairman thanked all those who had attended from NHS Wiltshire and the Wiltshire Council staff for servicing the meeting. He also thanked those that had attended in the spirit of contributing to the local health care issues.</p>	

	<p>Michael Ancram MP summed up the meeting, highlighting the problem of centralising services and its impact on those living on the periphery of the area. It was important to find the right solutions for the local people.</p>	
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