

HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 30 MAY 2013 AT COMMITTEE ROOMS A-C, MONKTON PARK OFFICES, CHIPPENHAM SN15 1ER.

Present:

Cllr Pat Aves (Substitute), Cllr Chris Caswill, Cllr Mary Champion (Substitute), Cllr Terry Chivers, Cllr Christine Crisp, Cllr Sue Evans (Substitute), Ms Linda Griffiths, Cllr Gordon King (Substitute), Cllr John Noeken, Cllr Mark Packard (Substitute), Cllr Sheila Parker, Cllr Nina Phillips, Cllr Pip Ridout, Cllr Ricky Rogers, Mr Brian Warwick and Mr Steve Wheeler

Also Present:

Cllr John Hubbard

61 **Membership**

It was clarified that the vacancy on the Committee was a result of Cllr Thorn being appointed to the Health & Wellbeing Board. The vacancy would be filled following the next Council meeting on 9 July 2013.

The Membership of the Committee as appointed by Full Council on 14 May 2013 was noted.

62 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Helena McKeown.

Cllr Gordon King substituted for Cllr Bob Jones MBE
Cllr Mary Champion substituted for Cllr Mary Douglas
Cllr Sue Evans substituted for Cllr Peter Hutton
Cllr Terry Chivers substituted for Cllr Jeff Osborn
Cllr Pat Aves substituted for the Lib Dem Vacancy

63 **Election of Chairman**

The Democratic Services Officer invited nominations for Chairman. Cllr Sheila Parker nominated Cllr Christine Crisp and this was seconded by Cllr John Noeken.

Cllr Crisp was elected Chairman of the committee unopposed, as no other nominations were received.

64 **Election of Vice Chairman**

Cllr Crisp invited nominations for Vice Chair. Cllr Pip Ridout nominated Cllr John Noeken and this was seconded by Cllr Parker. Cllr Chris Caswill nominated Cllr Helena McKeown and this was seconded by Cllr Gordon King.

A vote was held to decide the Vice Chair position, and it was decided by 7 votes to 5 that Cllr Noeken would be elected as Vice Chair.

65 **Committee Membership - stakeholders**

The following were confirmed as non-voting co-opted members:

- Advisor on social inclusion for older people (Brian Warwick)
- Wiltshire and Swindon Users' Network (Linda Griffiths or Dorothy Roberts)
- Steve Wheeler (Healthwatch Wiltshire)

66 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held 14 March 2013 were presented, and subject to the amendment to Item 52: AWP Charterhouse, It was,

Resolved:

The minutes for the meeting held March 14 2013 were signed and approved as an accurate record.

67 **Declarations of Interest**

It was noted that Steve Wheeler was a member of RUH Foundation Trust.

A discussion was held on personal interests in using local hospitals and care centres, as Cllr Pip Ridout and Cllr Gordon King outlined possible personal interests as family members used some local health services.

As a result, there were no Declarations of Interests to note

68 **Chairman's announcements**

The Chairman outlined the meeting of the Joint OSC for GWAS that was to be held in June/July and requested a volunteer from the committee to attend on behalf of Wiltshire Council. Two possible dates had been identified (28 June and 12 July 2013). Cllr Pip Ridout agreed to attend but requested a deputy in case she could not attend. Cllr John Noeken agreed to deputise for the meeting if held on 12 July 2013.

The Chairman also highlighted that the Committee Rooms at Monkton Park would be unavailable until 2014. The Chamber would also not be available for the July meeting, and the venue for the next meeting would be circulated when available.

69 Public Participation

No questions were received from the public.

70 Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust Public Enquiry (Francis Report)

A brief update was made to the committee informing them that a report would be taken to the next Committee to enable identification of any potential areas of development or consideration.

71 Royal United Hospital - Inspection Update

Jocelyn Foster, Commercial Director, RUH was in attendance to answer questions from the Committee.

The Committee discussed the Care Quality Commission (CQC) report and agreed that the report findings were distressing. Disappointment was expressed that the CQC was not present at the meeting. The Committee asked Ms Foster to summarise the headlines of the report and the actions against them.

Ms Foster did so and also clarified the instances of 'black escalation' at the Hospital. She explained that this occurred when there were no spare beds in the hospital, all areas were in use and ambulances were not able to 'off-load' the patients they carried. She confirmed that there were currently no empty wards that could be used during a black escalation period.

The Committee addressed some of the grading awarded to the RUH and stated it believed some of the categories to have been far too generous considering the seriousness of some of the findings. The Committee asked Ms Foster how the RUH planned to improve performance and how this would be followed up by the CQC in future.

Ms Foster explained that a future follow up inspection would be unannounced to test the integrity of any completed actions. The RUH was currently in the process of implementing changes to processes and systems as a result of the CQC inspection.

The Committee stated that it would have like to have challenged the CQC on its report findings, as there was a belief that it echoed the findings of a similar report in 2010.

The Committee then scrutinised the supplementation of ward staff and the role of agency nurses. The Committee were concerned over staff resources in nursing.

Ms Foster commented that one of the problems with escalations was matching ward staff to reflect patient needs across the hospital. The report had highlighted problems in this area.

A councillor stated that one of the key Safeguarding issues from the report was around co-operating with partners, and asked what was being done to improve performance in this area.

Ms Foster stated that the RUH believed this to be an area of concern, and had been working with other providers to identify how this could be enhanced.

The committee also expressed concern around the use of agency nurses and their potential contribution to the findings in the report.

Ms Foster stated that RUH operated with a full complement of nursing staff, but would return with the figures to address any concerns the Committee had.

The Committee also requested that the Chief Executive of the RUH be asked to attend the next meeting to address some of the points raised by the Committee.

Deborah Fielding, Accountable Officer, CCG stated that the CCG would be working with the RUH and the Bath and North East Somerset CCG at Board level to address the areas of concern in the report.

The Committee wanted it noted that, whilst it had concerns, it remained supportive of the RUH.

The Committee requested the following data from the RUH for their next meeting:

- Trend data, over a meaningful period of time on nursing resources.

In addition, the committee raised a number of issues to which they required a response. This included:

- To what extent the RUH considered agency nurses contributed to the problems identified by the CQC in February;
- the issues identified in the report that were similar to those issues identified in a report in 2010.
- Why the RUH was not reaching the required standard for 'cooperating with partners', as the Committee was very concerned about this, particularly from a safeguarding perspective.

Resolved:

That the Chief Executive of the RUH be asked to attend the next meeting of the Committee;

That the information requested above be provided by RUH for presentation at the next meeting of the Committee.

72 SWAN Advocacy

Irene Kohler, Chair of Board of Trustees of SWAN Advocacy made a short presentation to the Committee on the role of SWAN Advocacy and the service it provides. A summary was also given of the application to be made to the Big Lottery Fund (BLF) to secure funding for a specialist dementia advocacy service that will complement its existing work in the region.

The Committee asked Ms Kohler about the service including:

- Availability of the service in the County;
- Working alongside the Alzheimer's Society
- Office areas and availability;
- Work with the Health and Wellbeing Board;
- Role of the service in supporting memory assessments.

The Committee expressed its gratitude to SWAN Advocacy on behalf of Wiltshire Council for the service it provides and strongly endorsed the project proposal and BLF application.

73 Work Programme

The Chairman informed the Committee that the O & S Management Committee had accepted the legacy work programme from the previous Council; therefore the topics listed were adopted as the work programme for the Committee. In addition, at the scrutiny induction event, four suggestions were made for possible inclusion in the work programme. It had been agreed that officers would undertake some initial investigation on each topic and they would be returned to the Committee for consideration.

She also explained that the O & S Management Committee had agreed to direct each Select Committee to engage in early discussions with cabinet members, portfolio holders and service directors to gain a more informed understanding about Executive priorities. The Committee agreed to extend this approach to its health partners.

The Chairman reminded the Committee that it had been intended to conduct a rapid scrutiny exercise into the NHS 111 service, but a letter had been sent to Harmoni instead, pending discussions between Harmoni and the CCG. Deborah Fielding provided a brief update on the situation and explained that the contract was being monitored to ensure the successful implementation of the service.

The Committee was informed that the O & S Management Committee had suggested that any Councillor's who had sat on task groups that were to be continued in the new Council, should be re-appointed, subject to them wishing to continue. Any vacancies should be appointed by the chairman and vice-chairman. The Committee agreed to adopt this approach.

Following discussions of the legacy items it was,

Resolved:

That the Health Select Committee would extend discussions on priorities to relevant Health Partners to establish a more informed understanding.

To AGREE the legacy items (as listed on the agenda) from the previous Health Select Committee, as part of the work programme.

Legacy Task Groups would continue and that reappointments would include members who had been re-elected, subject to their desire to continue.

74 Urgent Items

There were no urgent items.

75 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held: **10:30am on 2 July 2013.**

POST MEETING NOTE:

This will be held at: **Council Chamber, Trowbridge Civic Centre, St Stephens Place, Trowbridge. BA14 8AH**

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am – 12.15 am)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Sam Bath, of Democratic Services,
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