

HEALTH AND ADULT CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Minutes of the meeting of the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee held
on 3rd May 2013 in the Acorns Room, Park Lane Centre, Park Lane, Woodside,
Telford TF7 5QZ

PRESENT:

Councillors D. White (Chair), V. Fletcher , J. Loveridge, J. Seymour, C. Turley,
Co-optees R. Shaw, J. Gulliver, Ralph Perkins, J. Gulliver and D. Davies.

Also Present: Cllr. A. England, M. Kelly (Shropshire Partners in Care) and F. Bottrill
(Scrutiny Group Specialist)

HACSC-44 MINUTES

RESOLVED - The minutes of the previous meetings of the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee held on 25th March 2013 be agreed as an accurate reflection of the meetings and signed by the Chairman subject to the following amendments on page 4 paragraph 5 “ people did” and page 5 paragraph 3 “of supporting”.

HACSC-45 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

HACSC-46 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Seymour declared an interest as a Member of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Chair thanked Cllr. Seymour for her work on this report and as a valued Member of the Committee.

HACSC-47 SCRUTINY REVIEW OF CONTINUING HEALTHCARE IN TELFORD AND WREKIN (APRIL 2013)

The Chair set out that the report will be presented to the CCG Board on the 14th May and the Health an Wellbeing Board on the 15th May. He reported that Cabinet Members were very supportive of the report. He had met with the CCG the previous week to discuss the report and recommendations and that their response had been

more positive than at the last Committee meeting. The Scrutiny Committee has carried out its work and come to conclusions and recommendations – it will now be for the 2 organisations to consider these and negotiate a way forward – it will be the responsibility of the Health and Wellbeing Board to ensure that this issue is resolved. A report will then come back to the Scrutiny Committee from the Health and Wellbeing Board setting out the Board's response.

The Chair stated that this report had been a good piece of work which considered the impact of the changes in Continuing Healthcare funding on individuals and the Council.

Cllr. Seymour commented that she would have liked the recommendations to be worded more strongly that the CCG 'must' but she recognised that what is important is how the recommendations are implemented and this will reported to the Committee.

Cllr. Fletcher added that it is the Scrutiny Committee's duty to ensure that these recommendations are implemented. The Committee has the power to refer to the Secretary of State. She said that following the Chair's discussion with the CCG she was confident that the recommendations will be implemented.

The Chair recognised that the report did not cover every aspect of CHC funding but it had been important to raise the issues that had been identified and link this to the wider discussions that were taking place.

Cllr. Fletcher reported that the effect of strokes on mental health have been reported recently and that this links with recommendation 10 in the Scrutiny Report.

The Chair thanked M. Kelly for attending and asked for any comments from Shropshire Partners in Care on the report.

M. Kelly responded that she thought the report was excellent and it identified the important issues. In her view the report was well balanced but hard hitting. She said that SPIC will be interested to know how the recommendations will be implemented over the next 6 months.

F. Bottrill reported that the CCG had not been asked to provide a written response to this meeting as it will be presented to the CCG Board later in the month. While there have been discussions with the CCG it is difficult to anticipate their full response. During the discussion the previous week the CCG did question some of the content of the report but reported that they did not have problems with the majority of the recommendations. The CCG did question the evidence regarding the level of funding.

The Chair commented that some funding that had previously been recorded as part of

CHC now came under mental health services – but this did not account for the reduction in CHC funding over the last 3 years.

Cllr. England said that he had been the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Wellbeing for 2 years and was a member of the Health and Wellbeing Board but that there will be some changes in Cabinet roles and he had come to this meeting to learn. He stressed the importance of the link between health and exercise and he had experience of working in health and social care and he recognised the need for the Council to make savings and hit targets. He made two comments on the report:

Firstly that the report put the patient first – which he commended.

Secondly that this is a very complex area - he referred to page 17 which set out guidance on primary health needs.

He added that the increase in the number of older people is also an issue for local services.

Cllr. Fletcher said that she recognised the importance of the link between health and exercise but was concerned that the healthy walks were being stopped. The Chair also expressed concern at this.

Cllr. England said that he had been involved in the development of the exercise on referral scheme and as Cabinet Member for leisure service had to make savings and generate income. He also recognised the role of arts and entertainment for example with older people and dementia. He said there was a need to have discussion with voluntary groups about how the walks are set up. Dr. Bird, an expert in this area, will be making a presentation to the next meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

A discussion followed about the walking groups it was recognised that there were successful groups at Asda in Donnington. J. Gulliver asked how training for the walk leaders and insurance would be paid if funding is withdrawn. The Chair said that there is a need to understand the costs and options.

Cllr. Fletcher asked if all Scrutiny reports go to Cabinet?

The Chair said that this is not essential.

F. Bottrill responded that the Health and Wellbeing Board has been established as a Committee of the Council and the issues on the CHC report are within the remit of this Committee. It was agreed that the procedure to will be confirmed with the Monitoring Officer.

RESOLVED:

- a) That Committee unanimously approve the report and recommendations
- b) That the report be presented to the CCG Board and Health and Wellbeing Board.

HSCSC-48 SCRUTINY REVIEW OF MEALS ON WHEELS

The Scrutiny Group Specialist reported that at the scoping meeting for this review it was agreed that the work of the Scrutiny Committee would focus in ensuring that the views of volunteers and service users are part of the review of this service. To achieve this it had been agreed that Members would hold a meeting with volunteers from the RSV and carry out interviews with service users.

Following the scoping meeting further suggestions had been made to:

- Open up the opportunity to all Members, including Cabinet Members to take part in the interviews
- To look at how the Meals on Wheels service link to the other work of RVS volunteers e.g. the Good Neighbours Scheme.

It was agreed that these points will be incorporated into the review. Following a discussion about the interview procedure it was also agreed that :

- All Members who take part in this work will be briefed before carrying out interviews.
- That where possible interviews will be carried out by Members and co-optees in pairs so one person can make notes of the interview.
- That a questionnaire schedule is drafted and will focus on the meals on wheels service but there will be an open question at the end to ask if there are any other issues the interview wants to raise.
- That any issues that require a response will be reported to the Scrutiny Group Specialist who will collate these and pass the issues to the Senior Management Team to respond to appropriately. Any urgent issues will be referred to the relevant officer immediately.

RESOLVED – that the scope of the Scrutiny Review on Meals on Wheels be amended.

HACSC – 49 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Chair reported on the work of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee with Shropshire which is a sub- committee of the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee. He set out that the priority for this committee was scrutinising hospital services and ensuring that the two hospitals in Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin are sustainable. The Trust has declared 3 Level 4s in the last year and is being monitored closely. The Scrutiny Committee must make sure that it is scrutinising this thoroughly. The Chair reported that he had spoken to the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive. Scrutiny of the hospital services is a major piece of work and it is important that other areas of Scrutiny do not suffer. It was recognised that the issues facing the local hospital Trust are reflected around the country.

D. Davies asked about the need for the NHS Trusts to achieve Foundation Trust (FT) status.

The Chair responded that he had been informed that the Trust is focusing on getting service right before pursuing FT status.

R. Shaw asked if the scrutiny of the hospital trust is the role of the Joint HOSC or the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee.

The Chair responded that in relation to Scrutiny it is the role of the Joint HOSC – but the Health and Wellbeing Board has a role as well. It is important that this does not become a divisive issue between the Local Authorities. The strength of the Joint HOSC has been that Members from both authorities work together. It is important the hospital Trust and Community Trust work together.

R. Shaw commented that finance is a key issues and that there will be implications from the intervention at Mid Staffordshire hospital.

Cllr. Seymour asked why there had been such an increase in demand for A&E when there were no epidemics?

The Chair said that the Scrutiny Committee cannot wait any longer for answers – the Committee needs to start asking the right questions.

Cllr. Fletcher said that it is important that the Committee has the facts and figures and that the problems are clearly identified.

The Chair said that there is a huge amount of work being carried out following the previous reconfiguration but the patient survey showed low satisfaction and the staff survey showed low morale.

J. Gulliver said that she had been involved in visiting 3 wards in Telford over 3 weeks and that this will result in improvements.

The Chair said that the role of care homes will be increasingly important in hospital discharge and it is important that staff have relevant training on dementia. He referred to the work the Committee had previously undertaken on dementia.

M. Kelly informed the Committee that SPIC and the Local Authority have been involved in dementia leadership training but that the hospital did not take part.

Cllr. Fletcher raised concerns about the bed capacity at the Trust following bed closures. She was also concerned about the cost of prescriptions being passed on to patients who are told to go to the GP to get a prescription rather than the medication being provided by the hospital.

Cllr. Seymour commented that the occupancy rate at the hospital is too high and that there is a need for the Joint HOSC to consider Shropshire Adult Care services.

The Chair reported that the Shropshire HOSC is starting an inquiry into Continuing Healthcare.

Cllr. England said that he was aware of some care homes that have made a lot of money by providing services to local authorities.

M. Kelly said that many care homes are struggling and are working hard to take patients who are in hospital as early as possible but it is important that the care homes get all the relevant information from the hospital when a patient is discharged.

The Chair said that he was aware that the Local Authority had negotiated hard when agreeing contract with care homes. During the review the Committee had found that some patients remained at care homes even when the funding does not cover the full cost of care. If care homes in Telford close then people will need to go out of county.

Cllr. Fletcher said that some care homes are not for profit organisations and have been subsidising care but cannot do this indefinitely.

With regard to the other issues on the Committees work programme it was agreed:

- The Committee agreed to receive a report on Healthwatch at a future meeting

and that J. Gulliver will continue as a co-opted member.

- Transition of Public Health – A report will be requested to a future meeting once the Director of Public Health position has been appointed.
- Draft Comments on the Quality Accounts for the West Midlands Ambulance Service, the Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust and the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust will be circulated for comment.
- The Committee will scope work on mental health at a future meeting
- The scrutiny suggestions regarding homelessness will be referred to the Housing, Economy and Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee
- The scrutiny suggestion regarding child poverty will be referred to the Co-operative and Communities Scrutiny Committee as part of the work on the impact of welfare reform.
- Following a discussion at Scrutiny Management Board the Chair of the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee agreed to write to the CCG regarding the provision of out of hours pharmacy services in south Telford.

RESOLVED - the Scrutiny work programme be amended to include the above comments.

The Meeting ended at 12.03 pm

Chairman:

Date: