

Councillor Richard Dodd declared a personal interest as an employee of the West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

Councillor Kate Rolfe declared a personal interest as a private carer not paid by Warwickshire County Council.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse declared a personal interest as chair of LINK

Councillor Angela Warner declared a personal interest in her role as a GP.

(3) Minutes of the meeting of the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 12 October 2010

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 8 November 2010 were amended as follows:

Page 3 include 'in relation to the eye unit' before Warwick Hospital (paragraph 4). Following this amendment the minutes, were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising

Matters arising from the minutes were:

Item 3, page 3 regarding the progress of GP Consortia in Warwickshire. The response was that it was still not clear how many GP Consortia there will be in Warwickshire or where they will be located. The committee will be informed as soon further information is available.

Item 3, page 4 regarding the location of virtual wards in Warwickshire. The response that there was one virtual ward in Alcester and it was thought one virtual ward in the North of the county - the location to be confirmed.

Item 6, page 5 regarding the consultation on the future of Bramcote Hospital and the wish to raise concern about the future of respite services in the area if the hospital was to close. CWPT also wanted to confirm they did have concerns (not as reported in the minutes) and these concerns had been sent to the consultation email address on the 27th October 2010 and wanted to ensure these would be considered/debated. It was agreed that these concerns would be considered at the meeting of the Committee to be held on 24th January 2011.

(4) Chair's Announcements

The Chair informed Members of the Committee that Paul Maubach and Rachel Pearce from NHS Warwickshire had sent their apologies for the meeting at extremely short notice, which was considered unacceptable. The committee supported the Chair's disappointment especially as alternative arrangements had not been made to send another representative. The committee agreed that a letter should be sent to NHS Warwickshire to voice their concerns and disappointment at the non attendance of NHS Warwickshire, especially as two of the agenda items were NHS Warwickshire's reports.

2. Public Question Time

None.

3. Questions to the Portfolio Holder

Councillor Izzi Seccombe

Councillor Kate Warner asked the Portfolio Holder whether there have been any problems with the Meals on Wheels service and the distribution of meals with the recent bad weather the county had experienced. Councillor Izzi Seccombe responded that she had not been made aware of any problems, but will investigate and provide a briefing note to the committee.

Councillor Dave Shilton suggested that when there are periods of very cold weather there should be increased publicity on what information and services are available and how these can be accessed to ensure older people are not placed at risk of falling ill due to insufficient heating or lack of food. Cllr Izzi Seccombe responded she would follow this up and Councillor Claire Watson said she would raise awareness of the need for extra publicity during cold spells at the Winter Warmth Group meeting next week.

Councillor Michael Kinson OBE wanted to convey a message that older people are beginning to feel a sense of isolation with the potential service cuts that the County Council are proposing to make. Councillor Izzi Seccombe explained that is not how the Council wants older people to feel, but the size of the savings required will inevitably have an effect on services. Councillor Michael Kinson OBE extended an invitation for Councillor Izzi Seccombe to attend a Warwick District Council meeting next week

to discuss the changes in service the County Council are likely to be making. Councillor Izzi Seccombe gave her apologies that she could not make this meeting due to other commitments, but will attend their January 2011 meeting.

Councillor Michael Kinson OBE also expressed his surprised at the substantial number of calls the Samaritans receive and wondered if there was an explanation for this. Councillor Jose Compton responded that she would forward a copy of the Samaritan's report to Councillor Kinson, which gives information on why they receive these calls.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse asked if any of the Nursing Homes in Warwickshire had expressed an interest to form a Social Enterprise rather than face closure. Councillor Izzi Seccombe responded that the Council had received an enquiry from one home to this effect, which had been followed up by the County Council, but at this moment in time, no response had been recieved.

Health Items

4. Long-term Reduction in Acute Beds

Due the absence of NHS Warwickshire representatives this item was deferred to the next meeting of the committee

5. NHS Warwickshire – Update

Due to the absence of NHS Warwickshire representatives this item was deferred to the next meeting of the committee

Adult Social Care Items

6. Council Performance Rating APA 2009-10 Warwickshire

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Adult Services, outlining the Adult Social Care Annual Performance Rating for 2009/10.

The Portfolio Holder Councillor Izzi Seccombe stated that the rating was an excellent improvement on the previous year. In particular, 'reablement' had been striking success with 66% of those accessing this service requiring no further care needs after receiving this service.

There was some discussion relating to areas of improvement outlined in the report and how these were being addressed. Jon Reading, Strategic Commissioning Service Manager informed the committee there is always a delay with performance ratings being published and some areas for improvement identified in the report were already performing better. Jon Reading explained that the Care Quality Commission will not be undertaking an annual inspection during 2010/11, but annual inspections would recommence in 2011/12. CQC are currently consulting on a new inspection regime, which is likely to focus on 3 core areas.

1. Putting People First
2. Value for Money
3. Safeguarding

In the interim, the County Council and its partners need to carefully monitor the intervening period to ensure that the current levels of performance are retained and improvements are made. It would also be necessary to ensure appropriate performance reporting to elected members.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe recognised there were challenging issues regarding recording mechanisms which fed into the APA process, taking into account visits, client conversations which were considered critical to meet the needs of the clients and the professionals. This is a statutory requirement, but accepts this is an onerous task, which is more difficult especially in these times. The Chair Councillor Les Caborn suggested that the committee receives a paper to monitor progress.

Councillor Richard Dodd sought clarification as to whether it was correct that 4 of the 7 performance outcomes are not assessed by CQC but are based solely on the evidence provided by the County Council. Jon Reading responded that this was correct and that the Care Quality Commission had been assured that the areas that these areas were working well and the focus is to concentrate on areas for improvement. It was noted that there are further checks and balances to monitor performance via the Audits and Standards Committee.

Councillor Dave Shilton asked how Adult Social Care set the indicators. Jon Reading responded that target setting is done using a tried and tested methodology and some national indicators are

being reintroduced. Again the Audit and Standards Committee monitor these indicators. The Committee requested that the performance report considered by the Audit and Standards Committee be made available to the committee

Councillor Kate Rolfe raised concerns around the waiting times for aids and adaptations. It was noted that that aids and adaptations were the responsibility of boroughs and districts councils, but it was acknowledged that the issue needed to be addressed. It was noted that aids and adaptations would be picked up by the Prevention Services Task and Finish Group. Jon Reading undertook to provide the Committee with a briefing note outlining the issues with aids and adaptations with historical data included.

Councillor Dave Shilton asked with CQC inspections not being carried out next year would this have an impact on performance especially taking into account the potential service reductions. Cllr Izzi Seccombe responded that cuts to frontline services would be avoided, with cuts likely to fall within back office functions. Councillor Izzi Seccombe added that quality is a critical part of performance but with budgetary constraints the County Council cannot promise there will not be cuts or a diminishing of services. Jon Reading will be provide regular updates to the committee on how the Directorate is implementing service reductions

Councillor Jose Compton asked where Warwickshire was placed in the league table, in relation to the other regional shire counties. Cllr Izzi Seccombe responded that Warwickshire was evenly placed with the majority of councils. All councils are performing well in the region, apart from a small number of councils, which are performing adequately. The league table details are in the Cabinet papers and it was agreed that this information will be circulated to the committee.

Councillor Frank McCarney wanted assurances that the new model of adult social care/services will be available for all of Warwickshire. Councillor Izzi Seccombe responded there is no intention to have any differences in the north or south of the county. It should be seen as a good opportunity to change and develop more services to support people to live independently rather than keeping them in longer term care. This is good practice.

Councillor Frank McCarney asked how these new services were going to be communicated to the public. Cllr Izzi Seccombe responded that any service changes would be communicated via Older People's Forums, staff groups and road shows. It was

accepted that there will be difficulties in running the old model of adult social care services whilst developing new services such as 'reablement', but it was agreed that it is the responsibility of the committee to monitor if this is working. Councillor Izzi Seccombe added there is a plan to have an adult social care directory of services and link this to directory of services provided by health to provide information for those trying to access services.

Jon Reading informed the committee that impact assessments are being carried out on current services to ensure there are no problems when services are decommissioned or reduced. He stressed the importance of the County Council in meeting its requirement to ensure it maintains quality of services and 'Duty of Care'.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse raised the importance of quality & 'Duty of Care' and how this is communicated with other providers of care as the County Council will be likely to be commissioning these services rather than providing services as it does now. He asked how the County Council will access performance information from these other providers to ensure customers continue to receive quality services and care. The committee considered it was important that there were quality monitoring measures in place.

Concerns were raised by members of the Committee that there needs to be more of a link with health to deliver care with expressions of disappointment that NHS Warwickshire had not attended this meeting. Councillor Izzi Seccombe assured the committee there would be continuing dialogue with health.

The Chair recommended that Adult Social Care & Health Directorate submit an action plan to address the areas of improvement identified within the Annual Performance Assessment and that this action plan be presented to the next committee meeting.

7. Joint Review of Antenatal and Postnatal Services for Teenage Parents in Warwickshire

Councillor Angela Warner opened by thanking Paul Williams in successfully bidding for funding from the Centre of Public Scrutiny (CfPS) to conduct this review and his enthusiasm and support throughout the review. She also extended her thanks to Paul Ansell and Shirley Round, Scrutiny officers from Rugby BC and Nuneaton BC and other officers who contributed to the review.

The CfPS specified that a successful bid would be aiming to address health inequalities and health outcomes for teenage parents are poorer with implications for them and their children. Warwickshire County Council with Rugby Borough Council and Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council were successful. It was disappointing that not all district/borough councils joined this review.

Councillor Angela Warner highlighted how the review contributed twice with information to help develop the CfPS health inequalities toolkit. Both elected Members and officers reflected on the review process and made suggestions on how future reviews on health inequalities could operate as an example of good practice.

The review had resulted in a disparate set of conclusions and recommendations where there were examples of good practice such as the 'Providing Information and Positive Parenting Support' (PIPPS) team at George Eliot Hospital, but with other areas that required further consideration such as the removal of Advisor to Pregnant Teenagers and Teenage Parents by Connexions. It was thought that this post should be reinstated. Councillor Izzi Seccombe considered this should be raised with Cabinet as a key point. It was also suggested that the welcome pack provided by PIPPS team should be available elsewhere.

Councillor Jose Compton considered there were too many recommendations and the message the review was wishing to make could be lost. Councillor Angela Warner explained that the Task and Finish Group had gone through a process of slimming down the recommendations, but then felt that they needed to be expanded again to make sure it put across the salient points the Task and Finish Group wanted to make. The recommendations also reflected the vast variety of services available for teenage parents and that was an additional reason why it was not feasible to reduce them further.

Cllr Frank McCarney was interested in the outcome from this review. He considered where Children's Centres were located such as schools may contribute to lack of access by teenager parents. He had concerns that Children's Centres based in community centres are facing financial pressures and this needs to be taken into consideration. Councillor Kate Rolfe added that there will be no more building of Children's Centres in Warwickshire which is a great shame.

Geoff King, Head of Service - Commissioning and Partnerships Division, Children & Young People Directorate was surprised that the Children's Centres were not considered welcoming but he is willing to do more work around this. He assured the Committee that following Cabinet consideration of the recommendation the Children, Young People and Families Directorate would put together an action plan to address the issues raised by the review. Cllr Warner responded by highlighting that review relied heavily on evidence such as the Bigmouth initiative which apparently targeted the 'most needy' young parents, which is what it was meant to do, but supports the lack of objective data identified in the report.

Councillor Claire Watson as a member of the Task and Finish Group wanted the Committee to note that there were no services for young fathers.

Kevin O'Leary from Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust assured the committee they will action recommendation 5 in the report and thanked the review panel for bringing it to their attention.

Councillor Angela Warner concluded with the importance of recommendation 17 in the report where professionals working with teenagers enjoyed the opportunity to network and to share their knowledge and experience with other professionals during this review.

The Chair recommended that a copy of the report with recommendations be given to Cabinet and relevant Health partners. A copy of the CfPS toolkit be circulated with the report.

8. Dementia Strategy

Jon Reading, informed the Committee that there are approx 7,000 people known to have dementia in Warwickshire and this is expected to rise to around 10,000 in three years time. It will take 5 years to develop the Dementia Strategy. There are 17 objectives in the National Dementia Strategy and the intention is not to adopt these objectives per se for Warwickshire but adapt them to suit the county's needs.

The intention for example is to provide Extra Care Housing for those with early stage dementia. Currently the draft dementia strategy is being developed but there are still some gaps, which is why it was thought premature to bring the Draft Strategy to the Committee at this stage. The planning team are looking at:

1. Timely recognition and early diagnosis
2. Assured pathway of care
3. Support for the rest of your life
4. Housing support – Extra Care
5. Workforce issues

The proposal is to bring the Dementia Strategy to this Committee in January 2011, stakeholders in February 2011 and Cabinet in March 2011. The Strategy will require an investment in resources. It was noted that Warwickshire is currently a pilot site for dementia advisors. Whilst the pilot is currently only available in the north of the county, it is hoped that the pilot will be rolled out to the remainder of the county. It was also noted that there are peer support groups such as 'Phoenix', but there needs to be a countywide approach. The intention is this will be provided by January 2011.

The committee members expressed a disappointment that the strategy was not yet complete and acknowledged that effectively addressing dementia is likely to be costly as more people are diagnosed with dementia.

Councillor Kate Rolfe was not convinced that Extra Care Housing will work for those that are in the later stages of dementia, as a change in surroundings would cause them great confusion and worsen their condition.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe agreed that resources needed to be sufficient to meet the needs of those affected. There is the potential to use Extra Care Housing for those in early stages of dementia, but there will still be a need for nursing care beds for those with major needs. She also recognised that Extra Care Housing will not be suitable, for those with dementia, for the whole of their life. However, Extra Care Housing could particularly suit the needs of those with learning difficulties that can be prone to early onset dementia.

Councillor Frank McCarney wanted the committee to take into account that many of those with dementia end up in the acute sector which can cost the NHS £500 per day. It was important to get the strategy moving on.

The Chair agreed that the Dementia Strategy will be presented to the committee in January 2011 and that this should include a full financial analysis and action plan required to deliver the strategy.

Joint Health and Adult Services

9. Work Programme 2010-11

Members noted the work programme and all items suggested in the programme, for the next meeting, will be on the agenda including the two NHS items deferred from today's meeting and the Dementia Strategy.

10. Any Other Business

Councillor Claire Watson informed the committee that the Winter Warmth Working Group - Warwickshire's Strategy with Public Health, will be brought before this O & S Committee, Cabinet and Public Health Board in April 2011.

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Chair of Committee

The Committee rose at 15:41 p.m.