

The **HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** met at **WARWICK** on the **2nd MARCH, 2005**

Present:-

Members of the Committee:

County Councillors: Jerry Roodhouse (Chair)
Cliff Baldry
Sarah Boad
Marion Haywood
Helen McCarthy
Bob Stevens
Sid Tooth

District Councillors: Richard Meredith (North Warwickshire Borough Council)
Bill Hancox (Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council)
Jane Harrison (Stratford-on-Avon District Council)
John Hatfield (Warwick District Council)

Other County Councillors:

Martin Brassington (Cabinet portfolio holder for Supporting Communities)

John Wells

Officers:

Marion Davis – Director of Social Care and Health

Carole Edkins – Social Services

Don Foster – Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy

Alwin McGibbon – Health Scrutiny Officer

Jane Pollard – Assistant County Solicitor

Also Present:-

Nick Dawe (South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust)

Jan Fereday-Smith (South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust)

Peter Hawker (South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust)

Jane Ives (South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust)
Peter Maddock (Rugby PCT)
Janet Monkman (South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust)
Dr. Mark Newbold (Rugby Hospital of St. Cross)
Judith Stephenson (Council for Disabled People)
Michael Vincent (Member of the Patient and Public Involvement Forum)

1. **General**

(1) **Apologies for absence**

An apology for absence was received from Dr. Morag Stern.

(2) **Minutes of the meeting held on the 12th January and 15th February 2005 and any matters arising**

(i) **12th January 2005**

(a) **Minutes**

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee's 12th January 2005 meeting be approved and be signed by the Chair.

(b) **Matters arising**

None.

(ii) **15th February 2005**

These minutes would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

(3) **Members Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

None

2. **Public Question Time**

None.

3. **South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust**

The Chair said that he would take agenda item 9 relating to the physiotherapist service in Leamington Spa together with this item.

The following points were raised during the presentation and questions and answers session:-

- The cost of running the hospital had risen by 9% whereas funding had risen by 6%; thereby resulting in a 3% reduction.
- The continued drive for efficiency was more difficult when starting at a low funding position.
- Maintaining the amount of elective work was a key issue.
- There was an underperformance in accessing inpatient beds as a result of bed blocking.
- Demands on A&E were increasing.
- There was an expected real cut of 1.7%.
- The LDP was a positive way forward.
- Although there was a planned shift from acute to primary care provision with GPs taking on certain work from hospitals, there would be an issue over the next two years while people still went to hospital for treatment.
- Thirty beds were being provided for this transition period. These were currently unfunded.
- The PCT Out of Hours Service was located next to A&E and staff from one would help out in the other if required.
- There was a lot of co-operation but not enough flexibility.
- Maternity services were underfunded and costs were being discussed within the LDP.
- Funding difficulties would make it difficult to retain the hospital's three star rating.
- Although pressures were horrendous at the hospital most staff liked working there; there was no problem with recruiting doctors and there was a waiting list for midwives wishing to be employed at the hospital.
- Clinicians were being deployed into managing the services.
- It was agreed that an appropriate member of staff from the Trust would attend the next meeting of the Access to Maternity Services Panel of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- Janet Monkman undertook to ensure that the Newborn Network report would be published during March to enable the Panel to use it.
- Although occasionally there would be mixed sex wards, all wards were bayed and each bay was single sex.
- Members of staff were moved to cover the areas of highest risk.
- The immediate objective was to ensure that no-one waited longer than six months for an operation and the ultimate target was to reduce waiting times to a maximum of eighteen weeks from referral to treatment.
- Janet Monkman had personally seen an improvement in NHS.
- Social Services were looking at the feasibility of a new nursing home to enable some of the bed blocking to be relieved.
- The Trust were not receiving money it had been expecting from the cancer strategy agreed through the Arden Cancer Network.
- The Hospital was very competitive with a very low cost base.
- It was noted that a decision on the relocation of the physiotherapy service in Leamington Spa would be made in within two months.

The Chair thanked the Trust representatives for their presentation.

The Committee adjourned from 11.21 a.m. to 11.27 a.m.

4. Access to GP Services – Disabled People

Judith Stephenson then made a presentation on work her organisation was carrying out for the Committee on disabled peoples access to GP services in Warwickshire. A copy of the draft report was circulated to the Committee. The following points were noted:-

- The response rate to the questionnaire was currently 26 to 27%.
- The name on page 37 should be removed before the report was published in its final form.
- Care would have to be taken in interpreting the data as there appeared to be a low response for Nuneaton and Bedworth.
- There had been a limited budget to carry out the research.
- When the final report was published, it was likely that the Committee would ask County Council Departments, PCTs, Area Committees and the District Councils to consider the recommendations.

The Chair thanked her for the presentation.

5. Rugby Hospital of St. Cross

The report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive was considered.

Peter Maddock, Chief Executive of Rugby PCT, and Dr. Mark Newbold, Director of Hospital of St. Cross, summarised the information in the vision document appended to the report.

The following points arose during the discussion:-

- Although the hospital would remain part of the University Hospitals of Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust, it would operate as a separate business unit managed locally.
- The Hospital had the full support of the Rugby PCT.
- The Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital would use specialist centres to provide some services and some of which would be sited at St. Cross.
- There was regular transport between the two hospitals.
- Trauma cases would be treated at Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital.
- There was no national programme for prostate cancer screening.
- In accordance with the LDP, care in the home was preferred in appropriate cases.
- It was agreed that regular reports should be made to the Committee and to the Area Committee.

The Chair thanked them for their presentation.

6. Interim Report on Access to Maternity Services Review

The report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive was considered.

Councillor Sarah Boad introduced the report and said that the Panel would agree the final report in April with a view to it going to the Committee after the County Council Elections. She was disappointed that attendance at the Panel meetings was low. In particular there had been no representative from Warwick Hospital and that meant that some of the information they had was out of date and she welcomed the promise made that morning that there would be a representative from the Hospital at the Panels next meeting.

It was then Resolved:-

That the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes:-

- The progress to date on the Access to Maternity Services Review.
- The next steps to be taken to complete the review.

7. Air Quality and Health – responses to Committee’s recommendations

8. Access to GP Services – PT&ES – responses to Committee’s recommendations

The Committee noted the responses received and that the Chair and group spokespersons would look in detail at the responses from the PCTs.

9. Correspondence

This had been dealt with earlier.

10. Future meetings and work programme to date

Noted.

11. Any other items of business

None

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Chair

The Committee rose at 1.20 p.m.