

The **HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** met at **WARWICK** on the **22nd MARCH, 2006**

Present:-

Members of the Committee:

County Councillors: Jerry Roodhouse (Chair)
Anne Forwood (Vice Chair)
John Appleton
Jill Dill-Russell
Marion Haywood
Bob Hicks
Katherine King
Frank McCarney
Helen McCarthy
John Ross

District Councillors: Richard Meredith (North
Warwickshire Borough
Council)
Bill Hancox (Nuneaton and
Bedworth Borough Council)
Michael Kinson (Warwick
District Council)

Other County Councillors:

Bob Stevens (Cabinet Portfolio Holder –
Performance Management)
June Tandy

Officers:

Graeme Betts – Strategic Director of Adult, Health &
Community Services
Victoria Gould – Principal Solicitor
Alwin McGibbon – Health Scrutiny Officer
Mary Yoemanson – Senior Business Analyst

Also Present:-

Shaun Clee (South Warwickshire PCT)
Brenda Hardy (Member of the Patient and Public
Involvement Forum – Rugby PCT)
Rachel Harris (Centre of Public Scrutiny)
Peter Jackson (Member of the Patient and Public
Involvement Forum – Rugby PCT)
Mary McGorry – Mental Health Services

Kate Phipps (Director of Mental Health and Disability, North Warwickshire PCT)
Joan Rook (Member of the Patient and Public Involvement Forum)
M. Vincent (Member of the Patient and Public Involvement Forum – South Warwickshire PCT)

1. **General**

(1) **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anita Macaulay and John Haynes. In addition Paul Hooper (Regional Tobacco Lead, South Warwickshire PCT).

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

Personal interests were recorded in respect of the following members by virtue of being members of the Borough/District Council indicated:-

Councillor John Appleton – Stratford-on-Avon District Council.
Councillor Bill Hancox – Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council.
Councillor Bob Hicks – Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
Councillor Michael Kinson – Warwick District Council.
Councillor Richard Meredith – North Warwickshire Borough Council.
Councillor Jerry Roodhouse – Rugby Borough Council.
Councillor Bob Stevens – Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

In addition Councillor Bob Hicks declared a personal interest in agenda item 4, as he was Vice President of the Nuneaton & Bedworth MENCAP Society.

(3) **Minutes of the meetings held on 18th and 25th January and the 3rd March 2006 and matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda**

(i) **18th January 2006**

(a) **Minutes**

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee's 18th January 2006 meeting be approved and be signed by the Chair.

(b) **Matters arising**

Nil.

(ii) **25th January 2006**

(a) **Minutes**

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee's 25th January 2006 meeting be approved and be signed by the Chair.

(b) Matters arising

Nil.

(iii) 3rd March 2006

(a) Minutes

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee's 3rd March 2006 meeting be approved as amended by replacing the words "*South Warwickshire*" by the word "*Rugby*" against Peter Jackson's name in the attendance list and be signed by the Chair.

(b) Matters arising
Minute 2 – NHS Consultation

Councillor John Appleton said that Councillor Hazel Wright (Stratford-on-Avon District Council) had received a letter in response to representations she had made on the merger proposals. It was agreed that Alwin McGibbon should attempt to obtain a copy of the letter.

2. Public Question Time (Standing Order 34)

The Chair said that Roger Copping, Warwick District Council Health Champion, had given notice of two questions that he wished raised at the meeting today. These were:-

"Question 1. On BBC Cov. & Warks, Wednesday 8/2/06 Dr. Horrocks, Medical Director, announced the closure of 100 beds at Warwick Hospital. This pre-empts the present Acute Services Review, presently taking place. Dr. Horrocks reassured local people that this was to reflect 21st Century NHS practice. Day surgery would be increased & hospital activity would not be affected. Some complex cancer operations, infrequently done at Warwick, would now take place at Walsgrave – I have no problem with this particular decision. The bed cuts were "not for financial reasons", staff would be re-deployed (apart from Agency staff). The cuts will improve efficiency – "Fewer beds – Not less service".

GPs patients have had "Choose & Book" since 1/1/06. Many have chosen to go for elective orthopaedic surgery to Kidderminster, 2 months wait, instead of Warwick, 4 months wait. Why is there such a long Waiting List & 23% of the existing beds are being taken out of commission at the same time? Will Warwick Hospital no longer be on

the choice of 4 Centres that local patients can choose from, for an increasing number of Specialties?”

“Question 2. Press Release Friday 10/2/06. Mr Hammerton, Director of Facilities. Announced that car parking charges for from 15” to 4 hours would increase from the previous £2.20 for 15” to 2 hours, to a new charge of £3. This really results in a 40% increase in charges for virtually everybody. Weekly parking charges more than double, from £7 to £15. This particularly disadvantages people in rural Warks not on a bus route. The £1 charge was brought in in 1998, because of the need for security against car crime. WDC customers prefer Pay on Foot, e.g. at St. Peter’s Car Park, Leamington. **This decision needs to be scrutinised regarding the following 1) How many visitors/patients were asked if they disliked Pay on Foot & the 7 options being decreased to the new 3 more expensive options? 2) Has the Hospital discussed these extra charges with their local neighbouring community, eg Residents’ Association, Police, Neighbourhood Watch? 3) Crime figures were very high on the Packmores Estate, they have now, fortunately decreased, can these increased charges still be justified by the need for even more security? 4) RPI is currently c 2.4%, how can the Trust justify charging 40% & 114% increases?”**

The Chair said that with regard to the first question, clarification was being sought from Warwick Hospital. As for the second question a meeting would be arranged between representatives of the Committee, Patients and Public Involvement Forum and Warwick Hospital to discuss the issues.

3. Review of the Impact of the New Out of Hours Arrangements on South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust A&E Admission Figures

The report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development.

Mary Yeomanson introduced the report. The conclusion of the review was that A&E admission rates in South Warwickshire were rising in line with the rise in population. Accordingly, it was important that the South Warwickshire PCT planned to meet this increase.

The following points arose during the ensuing discussion:-

- The figures were based only on the first attendances and not readmissions.
- It was noted that walk-in centres had been operating since 2001.
- It was uncertain what impact the ambulance service would have with more people being treated at home to avoid unnecessary admissions.
- NHS Direct provided a low risk service.

The Chair said that the review would help during the Acute Service Review.

4. Mental Health Review - consultation

The Chair introduced this item and said that there was concern about the governance arrangements and unease about the relationship with Coventry City Council. He referred to a recent report from that Council and pointed out that there was no mention of the County Council in it. He then asked how the Committee could be assured that Warwickshire citizens would receive the services they needed.

Kate Phipps said that the consultation document included a section on Warwickshire. The different needs between Warwickshire and Coventry were recognised and existing arrangements were based on localities smaller than Warwickshire because it was recognised that there was a variety of differing needs even within the County.

The following comments arose during the ensuing discussion:-

- Contrary to the concerns felt in Warwickshire, Coventry feared that Warwickshire would takeover.
- A recent appointment to a locality directorate related solely to Coventry and not the Trust overall.
- It was recognised that the issues around learning difficulties were wider than those of mental health concerns.
- An advantage of the merger was that the new Trust would have the population base to make it feasible to provide some services in the area the needs for which were currently necessarily met from outside the area.
- No decision had been made as to the location of the headquarters for the new Trust but it was essential that there was a local presence in both Coventry and Warwickshire.
- There had been wide consultation on the proposals involving a mix of public meetings, presentations to special focus groups, meetings with service users, open invitation for visits to explain the proposals and the consultation documentation was presented in various formats to reach as wide an audience as possible.

The Chair said that the morning had been quite useful but the Committee was still not in a position to make firm recommendations to the County Council. A further report was needed to Council including details of the proposed organisational structure. He added that he would like to meet with Coventry City Council and see any reports.

5. Correspondence

The Committee noted the letters sent, after consulting the Chair and Spokespersons, in support of the core standards declarations by the Coventry

and Warwickshire Ambulance NHS Trust and the North Warwickshire Primary Care Trusts.

Alwin McGibbon said that she would e-mail members with any other letters that might be sent.

6. Future meetings and work programme to date

This was noted.

7. Any other Items

(1) George Eliot Hospital

It was noted that the George Eliot Hospital was proposing to close the museum based on the fourth floor of the maternity unit. Councillor Frank McCarney said that the Trust would not be able to sell the artefacts from the museum.

(2) Portuguese community project

Councillor John Appleton referred to the project in Leamington Spa in connection to the Portuguese community in that town and suggested that it should be extended to all. Alwin McGibbon explained that the idea for the project had arisen from the Maternity Panel and the Portuguese community was being used as a focus group because of the closely knit nature of the community.

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Chair

The Committee rose at 12. 02 p.m.