

The **HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** met at **WARWICK** on the **10th MAY, 2006**

Present:-

Members of the Committee:

County Councillors: Jerry Roodhouse (Chair)
Anne Forwood (Vice Chair)
John Appleton
Sarah Boad
Richard Chattaway
Marion Haywood
Frank McCarney
Helen McCarthy
Tim Naylor
Raj Randev
John Ross

District Councillors: Anthony Dixon (Stratford-on-Avon District Council)
Bill Hancox (Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council)
Michael Kinson (Warwick District Council)

Other County Councillors:

Bob Stevens (The Deputy Leader of the Council)

Officers:

Victoria Gould – Young People Legal Service
Manager
Alwin McGibbon – Health Scrutiny Officer

Also Present:-

Jane Ives (South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust)
Peter Jackson (Member of the Patient and Public Involvement Forum – Rugby PCT)
Helen King (Director of Public Health – Rugby PCT)

1. Election of Chair

Councillor Sarah Boad, seconded by Councillor Helen McCarthy, moved and it was Resolved:-

That Councillor Jerry Roodhouse be elected Chair of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2. Appointment of Deputy Chair

The Chair, seconded by Councillor Richard Chattaway, moved and it was Resolved:-

That Councillor Ann Forwood be appointed Deputy Chair of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

3. General

(1) Apologies for absence

The Chair reported that Councillor Anita Macaulay had suffered a brain haemorrhage the day before and was in hospital awaiting an operation. The Committee agreed that a message of sympathy be sent on their behalf to her family.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Richard Meredith. Councillors Richard Chattaway and Tim Naylor had replaced Councillors John Haynes and Bob Hicks respectively for the meeting. In addition Paul Hooper (Regional Tobacco Lead, South Warwickshire PCT) had indicated that he would be unable to attend.

(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 Anthony Dixon – Stratford-on-Avon District Council.
Councillor Bill Hancox – Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council.
Councillor Michael Kinson – Warwick District Council.
Councillor Jerry Roodhouse – Rugby Borough Council.
Councillor Bob Stevens – Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

(3) Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd March 2006

(i) Minutes

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee's 22nd March 2006 meeting be approved and be signed by the Chair.

(ii) Matters arising
Minute 2 – Questions from Roger Copping, Warwick District Council Health Champion

In connection with the questions raised at the meeting on the meeting on the 22nd March, it was noted that the issue about car parking charges was a matter for the PPIF and that the other issue was awaiting the review of Acute Services.

4. Public Question Time (Standing Order 34)

None.

5. A Summary of the Draft Report produced by the Coventry City Council on the Coventry and Warwickshire Breastfeeding Review Document

The draft report was considered.

The following points were raised during the discussion:-

- Although the review had been intended to be a joint initiative between Warwickshire and Coventry, in practice very little heed was taken of Warwickshire and the review document was Coventry orientated. All meetings took place in Coventry and there had been no joint launch of the document.
- The report was written in an academic tone.
- Members recognised the importance of breastfeeding.
- It was suggested that incentives should be given by the Government to allow mothers to remain at home with their babies for the first six months after birth if they wished to do so without the pressure of having to return to work. The reasoning behind this was that it would facilitate breastfeeding. Some Members suggested that breastfeeding should take place in privacy. It was suggested that mothers who could not breastfeed their babies could be distressed by seeing other mothers breastfeed their babies.
- Other Members vigorously opposed those suggestions. The emphasis should be on a more inclusive society and in this respect it was important that breastfeeding mothers should not be hidden away but be supported by employers. The rest of the workforce should be educated to accept breastfeeding as natural. There should be a strong message to the County Council that it should have robust policies promoting breastfeeding.
- The Cabinet and District Councils should be asked to review their practices and report back to the Committee. The PCTs should be given twenty-eight days to comment on the recommendations.

It was then Resolved:-

- (1) That the Cabinet and the Warwickshire District Councils be asked to review their employer practices with a view to supporting breastfeeding and report back to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- (2) That the Primary Care Trusts in Warwickshire be asked to consider the recommendations in the report and respond with any comments within twenty-eight days.

6. Healthcare Commission Consultation Document

The Committee considered the briefing paper.

Members were asked to e-mail Alwin McGibbon with any responses to the questionnaire by the end of May to allow her to collate them. It was noted that some of the questions did not relate to overview and scrutiny and therefore members would not be expected to answer those questions. It was suggested that Members might wish to indicate questions that they believed to be valid but had not been included. It was agreed that Alwin McGibbon should ask the PPIF for their comments on the questionnaire.

7. Correspondence

(1) Stratford Hospital – Nicol Ward

The Committee considered the letter from Janet Monkman, Chief Executive of South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust, and Teresa French, Chief Executive of South Warwickshire Primary Care Trust, relating to a change in the management of Nicol Ward at Stratford Hospital.

The following points arose during the discussion:-

- The Hospital Trust had received no formal correspondence confirming whether the PCT was intending to continue with the provision.
- The proposals would not be included in the Acute Services Review as it was not an acute service.
- It was recognised that there might be some impact upon the services delivered by the County Council.
- It was confirmed that TUPE arrangements would apply if there were a change of provider between NHS Trusts.
- It was noted that the PPIF for the Hospital had been informed of the proposals.
- On the question of whether a new single PCT would honour any decision by the South Warwickshire PCT with regard to the provision currently provided at Nicol Ward, it was pointed out that the intention would be to merge the local delivery plans for the three Warwickshire PCTs into one.

The Chair said that clarification would be sought from the South Warwickshire PCT. The issue would be considered again at the Committee's meeting on the 21st June.

(2) NHS Finances in West Midlands

The Committee noted the letter to MPs from David Nicholson, Chief Executive of Birmingham and Black Country Strategic Health Authority.

The following points arose from the discussion:-

- The next stage would be to ask what the impact would be on the three Warwickshire PCTs.
- It was noted that George Eliot Hospital and South Warwickshire Hospitals were in the bottom 10% of hospitals for funding purposes. Payment by Results and the National Tariff would mean that eventually all hospitals would be on a level playing field. Transitional arrangements meant that it would be four years before the full benefits were felt.

(3) Patient & Public Involvement Forum South Warwickshire General Hospitals – Infection Control/Cleanliness Inspection Proforma

The Committee noted the paperwork from the Forum in connection with an inspection of the Maternity Women's Unit at Warwick Hospital. It was noted that there was no response included from the hospital and Alwin McGibbon undertook to obtain this and e-mail it to Members.

(4) Hampshire County Council – Consultation on the Configuration of NHS Ambulance Services

Councillor Bob Stevens referred to the proposed merger of the Coventry and Warwickshire Ambulance Trust with neighbouring Ambulance Trusts and said that he had attended a joint meeting of representatives from the local authorities concerned. Generally it had been considered that the consultation on the proposals had been poor. A two-and-a-half page joint letter had been drafted by Coventry to go to the Secretary of State but this had not been agreed, as there had been concerns about its length and content.

Reference was then made to a copy of a letter to the Secretary of State from the Chairman of Hampshire County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee in which it was proposed that discussions should take place with a view to Hampshire County Council taking on the management responsibility for the Hampshire Ambulance Service. Victoria Gould said that it was possible for the County Council to enter into arrangements for the provision of some health functions under Section 31 Health Act 1999, the relevant functions were set out in regulations and she would check whether these included management of ambulance services.

The Committee agreed that a letter should be sent to the Secretary of State similar to the letter from the Chair of Hampshire County Council's HOSC but omitting the suggestion in relation to taking on their responsibility for the provision of the service.

(5) George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust's Final Declaration

The Committee noted the letter from Graham Smith, Chief Executive, George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust, concerning the Trust's final declaration of compliance against standards for better health.

Councillor Frank McCarney asked whether it would be possible to see the report of the Turn Around Team looking into the Hospital. Alwin McGibbon undertook to look into this.

(6) North Warwickshire Primary Care Trust Final Declaration

The Committee noted the letter from Dr. Linda Latham, Director of Integrated Governance, concerning the PCT's final declaration in connection with standards for better health.

8. Future meetings and work programme to date

It was agreed that the PCTs should report to the Committee's meeting on the 21st June 2006 on Commissioning, Local Delivery Plans and the impact on PCTs of the Strategic Health Authority's deficit.

9. Any other Items

Councillor John Appleton referred to proposals for the future of Patient and Public Involvement Fora and said that one of the options being considered was for Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees to take over their responsibilities.

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Chair

The Committee rose at 11. 46 a.m.