

The **HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** met at **WARWICK** on the **18th OCTOBER, 2006**

Present:-

Members of the Committee:

County Councillors: Jerry Roodhouse (Chair)
Anne Forwood (Vice Chair)
John Appleton
Sarah Boad
John Haynes
Marion Haywood
Sue Main
Frank McCarney
Helen McCarthy
Raj Randev
John Ross
John Wells

District Councillors: Anthony Dixon (Stratford-on-Avon District Council)
Bill Hancox (Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council)
Michael Kinson (Warwick District Council)
Richard Meredith (North Warwickshire Borough Council)
Bill Sewell (Rugby Borough Council)

Other County Councillors:

Bob Stevens (The Deputy Leader of the Council)

Officers:

Alwin McGibbon – Health Scrutiny Officer

Also Present:-

Ms A. Beaufoy, Warwickshire Patient and Public Involvement Forum (North Warwickshire Locality Committee)

Ms B. Bishop, Strategic Health Authority

Mr. D. Gee, Warwickshire Patient and Public Involvement Forum (Chair of South Warwickshire Locality Committee)

Ms T. Howarth, Patient and Public Involvement
Forum Support Organisation
Mr. M. Jeffs, Warwickshire Patient and Public
Involvement Forum (Vice Chair of South
Warwickshire Locality Committee)
Ms M. McGorry, Assistant Service Manager (Mental
Health Services)
Ms K. Phipps, Coventry and Warwickshire
Partnership NHS Trust
Ms N. Pullman, Coventry and Warwickshire Patient
and Public Involvement Forum
Ms J. Rook, Warwickshire Patient and Public
Involvement Forum (South Warwickshire Locality
Committee)
Ms E. Rose, Patient and Public Involvement Forum
(George Eliot Hospital, Nuneaton)
Mr. B. Sturgess, Warwickshire Patient and Public
Involvement Forum (Rugby Locality Committee)
Mr. M. Vincent, Warwickshire Patient and Public
Involvement Forum (South Warwickshire Locality
Committee)

1. **General**

(1) Apologies for absence

It was noted that Councillor John Wells had replaced Councillor Bob Hicks for the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Helen King and Paul Hooper.

(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 Sue Main – Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Councillor Richard Meredith – North Warwickshire Borough Council
Councillor Jerry Roodhouse – Rugby Borough Council.
Councillor John Ross – Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council.
Councillor Bill Sewell – Rugby Borough Council
Councillor Bob Stevens – Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

(3) Minutes of the meeting held on 19th July and 31st August/1st September 2006

- (i) 19th July**
(a) Minutes

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee's 19th July 2006 meeting be approved and be signed by the Chair.

- (b) Matters arising**
(A) Minute 1(3)(ii)(a) – Stratford Hospital – Nicol Ward

The Chair said that a response was still awaited from the Primary Care Trust. He had asked Alwin McGibbon to write a stronger letter to the Trust chasing the response.

(B) Minute 4 – Dentistry

Councillor Helen McCarthy said that there still had been no communication giving details of the Henley-in-Arden dentist who would take patients from Studley.

It was also noted that there was nothing in the Committee's work programme for reconvening the Dentistry Scrutiny Panel.

(C) Minute 5 – Childhood Obesity Panel

Councillor Marion Haywood referred to the membership of the panel and said that, as a consequence of Councillor George Atkinson leaving the Committee, Councillor Helen McCarthy had taken his place on the panel.

- (ii) 31st August/1st September**
(a) Minutes

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee's 31st August/1st September 2006 meeting be approved and be signed by the Chair.

- (b) Matters arising**

Nil.

2. Public Question Time (Standing Order 34)

Nil.

3. **Acute Services Review**

(1) **Update** and

(2) **Coventry City Council Scrutiny Board 4 (Community Services and Housing, Neighbourhoods, Equalities and Health) – Responses to the Coventry and Warwickshire Acute Services Review**

At the Chair's suggestion, the Committee considered these items together. The Chair said that Councillor Anne Forwood had attended a recent meeting of the Acute Services Review Board and invited her to update the Committee on that meeting.

Councillor Anne Forwood made the following points:-

- (i) The Chair of the Review, Madeleine Atkins, had shown bias towards Coventry and had been dismissive about the Committee's recommendations that certain proposals should be referred to the Secretary of State for Health unless local solutions could be found even though the Committee had legitimate concerns that those proposals did not appear to be in the best interests of providing a Health Service to the people of Warwickshire.
- (ii) Mark Newbold had been very fair in his summing up of the meetings that had been held during the consultation period.
- (iii) Some of the plans did not appear to be as horrendous as they first seemed because they had already been in operation for some time without causing major problems.
- (iv) One Coventry Councillor referred to the length of time taken in travelling to and from the new hospital.
- (v) There had been an admission that the Board had not looked in depth at some of the proposals.

Alwin McGibbon added:-

- (vi) The final proposals would be going to a meeting of the Board on the 2nd November 2006 and the Committee would need to consider them at their meeting on the 29th November. She intended to circulate members with the details well in advance of their meeting.
- (vii) In response to Recommendation 6, Mark Newbold had said that it was not the Review Board's responsibility to solve the financial problems in the County.
- (viii) Mark Newbold had been informed that in addition to the Board's final proposals, the Committee would expect to have answers to the questions that they had posed.

The Chair said that it had been obvious that the Review Board had a definite lack of understanding about the differences between the democratic structure between NHS bodies and the Committee.

The Chair then referred to the letter from Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council, which had been circulated to members, concerning that Council seeking judicial review unless certain assurances were received. The Borough Council had also requested the Committee not to delay referring those issues over which they had concern to the Secretary of State. However, any referral to the Secretary of State had to have a very firm evidence base if it were to have any chance of receiving serious consideration and it was important not to be too hasty. The Committee should wait to see the proposals coming from the Board's meeting on the 2nd November.

Councillor Frank McCarney expressed concern that senior officers from Warwickshire had not been included in the Review whereas they were from Coventry. He had spoken with Councillor Joe Clifford, Chair of Coventry's Scrutiny Board concerned with Health issues and it had been apparent that the Board had not been informed about the financial situation. There had been a distinct difference between the level of scrutiny carried out by Coventry and Warwickshire. He had extreme doubts about the validity of the consultation exercise and hoped that the proposals would be abandoned and that all parties would meet to discuss future provision of acute services in Coventry and Warwickshire.

Councillor Bob Stevens said that the County Council had pressed for stronger representation but the request had not been accepted. The Coventry report had, not surprisingly, been written with a Coventry viewpoint. He considered that Coventry and Warwickshire should work together on the Health agenda.

Alwin McGibbon said that she would keep a watch on the new Warwickshire Primary Care Trust website to see when the key appointments were made so that she could keep the Committee informed on developments.

4. Mental Health Presentation

- (1) The Warwickshire results of the recent combined HCC/CSCI review nationally of Community Mental Health Services and**
- (2) The User and Carer workstream paper to the new Partnership Trust Project Board, addressing points raised by the Committee regarding user and carers**

The Committee received a presentation from Mary McGorry and Kate Phipps.

The Committee noted that Mary McGorry was leaving the Council's service after two-and-a-half years on the 3rd November 2006. The Chair wished her well for the future.

The following points arose during the presentation and discussion:-

- (i) The recently published performance ratings for the former three Primary Care Trusts in Warwickshire had been:-

South Warwickshire: fair for both quality of service and use of resources.

North Warwickshire: good for quality of service and fair for use of resources.

Rugby: good for quality of service and weak for use of resources.

- (ii) Mental Health Services in South Warwickshire received an excellent review and in North Warwickshire and Rugby received good ratings. This reflected the fact that the service had been in existence longer in South Warwickshire. The good rating for the other two areas was pleasing in view of the shorter time the services had been in operation there.
- (iii) It would be important to see what the ratings would be next year under the Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust.
- (iv) Although there had been problems with attracting psychiatrists to North Warwickshire with four locums when Kate Phipps had first come into her job, all vacancies had now been filled.
- (v) The Community and Voluntary Sector Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Compact had been cited as an example of good practice. It had brought the voluntary sector into the Mental Health Service.
- (vi) There would be a series of joint posts for commissioning.

5. Update on the Implementation of the recommendations arising from the review (first phase) into Adult Mental Health Services in Warwickshire

The report from Mary McGorry, Assistant Service Manager, Mental Health, was considered.

The following points were raised:-

- (1) General Practitioners welcomed the availability of psychiatric services in surgeries. The only problems were with those very small surgeries where there was a space issue.
- (2) The jointly funded BME Community Development Worker posts in North Warwickshire and Rugby would be advertised that week with a view to filling them in December 2006.
- (3) Dr. Betts and the new Chief Executive of the Partnership would meet to discuss joint working arrangements.

Councillor Richard Meredith asked that any Councillor colleague who aspired to be a mayor or chair of their council to use their period of office to highlight the Mental Health Service by giving to a mental health charity.

6. A Stronger Local Voice – New Arrangements for NHS Accountability

The Committee considered a report that was submitted to the Cabinet on the 7th September 2006.

Councillor Sarah Boad said that she was at the Cabinet meeting at which the report was considered and she had asked for it to be brought to the Committee. She considered that the response from the County Council was confusing. The following points arose during the discussion:-

- (1) The three Patients and Public Involvement Fora that had previously operated with the three former PCTs had reconfigured into one body to operate alongside the new Warwickshire PCT. However because the three different areas of the County had different needs, below forum level, there would be three locality committees based on the areas of the previous for a. The County Forum would meet three times a year with the locality committees meeting monthly.
- (2) There were concerns over who would inspect NHS premises if that responsibility were removed from the Forum.
- (3) There were no changes proposed for PALS.
- (4) Members of the Fora were well served by the existing support organisations but it was not certain how this would be arranged for the future.

It was agreed that Cabinet should be informed of the Committee's concern over the independence of PPIFs, future funding arrangements, who exercised the power of inspection and support arrangements.

The Chair referred to a Health event he was proposing for January involving the PPIF. It was hoped that the Health Care Commission would also be represented. This was agreed.

7. Correspondence

(1) North Warwickshire Primary Care Trust – Standards for Better Health Development Plan 2006-2007

The Committee noted the Development Plan.

(2) Establishment of a new Mental Health Trust in NHS West Midlands from 1st October 2006

The Committee noted the letter dated the 31st July 2006 from the Department of Health confirming approval of the new Mental Health Trust.

(3) South Warwickshire PPI Forum Support – new communication channel with Warwick and Stratford Hospitals

The Committee noted the letter from the Chair of PPI Forum for South Warwickshire General Hospitals dated the 31st August 2006.

Councillor Sarah Boad said that she was unable to attend the next meeting on the 3rd December 2006.

8. Future meetings and work programme to date

The programme was received.

It was agreed that the “Out of Hours – implementation of recommendations” should be removed, as there had been no real recommendations made.

It was also agreed that an entry should be included for the Dentistry Panel in the second column for the 24th January 2007 meeting.

The Chair said that some of the items for the 29th November 2006 might have to be moved to a later meeting to allow time for consideration of Acute Services Review Board proposals.

9. Any other Items

Nil.

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Chair

The Committee rose at 11.52 a.m.