

The **HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** met at **WARWICK** on the **23<sup>rd</sup> MAY, 2007**

**Present:-**

**Members of the Committee:**

County Councillors: Jerry Roodhouse (Chair)  
Sarah Boad (Vice Chair)  
John Appleton  
John Haynes  
Marion Haywood  
Bob Hicks  
Frank McCarney  
Helen McCarthy  
Raj Randev  
John Ross  
Mota Singh

District Councillors: Tony Dixon (Stratford-on-Avon District Council)  
Richard Hancox (Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council)  
Michael Kinson (Warwick District Council)  
Bill Sewell (Rugby Borough Council)

**Other County Councillors:**

Colin Hayfield (Adult, Health and Community Portfolio Holder)  
Bob Stevens (The Deputy Leader of the Council)

**Officers:**

Alwin McGibbon – Health Scrutiny Officer

**Also Present:-**

Roger Copping, Warwickshire Patient and Public Involvement Forum (South Warwickshire Locality Committee)  
Gill Entwistle, Director of Finance, NHS Warwickshire  
Jill Freer, Managing Director of Community Services, NHS Warwickshire

Tammie Howarth, Forum Support Manager,  
Coventry & Warwickshire Patient and Public  
Involvement Forum Support Organisation  
Keith Prior, Locality Director Coventry &  
Warwickshire, West Midlands Ambulance Trust  
David Rose, Chief Executive, NHS Warwickshire  
Brian Stoten, Chair, NHS Warwickshire  
M. Vincent, Warwickshire Patient and Public  
Involvement Forum (South Warwickshire Locality  
Committee  
Keith Ward, Vice-Chair Warwickshire Patient and  
Public Involvement Forum  
Kathy Wyatt, Dental Service Manager

**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 until the appointment of his successor in accordance with Standing Order 2.8.

**2. Appointment of Vice-Chair**

The Chair, seconded by Councillor Helen McCarthy, moved and it was Resolved:-

That Councillor Sarah Boad be appointed Vice Chair of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee until the appointment of her successor in accordance with Standing Order 2.8.

**3. General**

**(1) Apologies for absence**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Sue Main.

**(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 Tony Dixon – Stratford-on-Avon District Council  
Councillor Bill Hancox – Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council  
Councillor Colin Hayfield – North Warwickshire Borough Council  
Councillor Michael Kinson – Warwick District Council  
Councillor Jerry Roodhouse – Rugby Bough Council

Councillor John Ross – Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council.  
Councillor Bill Sewell – Rugby Borough Council  
Councillor Bob Stevens – Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

In addition the following members disclosed personal interests:-

Councillor Marion Haywood – Non-Executive Director of NHS Warwickshire.  
Councillor Frank McCarney – Previous Chair of George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust – item 9(2)  
Councillor Mota Singh – Associate Non-Executive Director of the South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust – general.

**(3) Minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2007**

**(i) Minutes**

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee's 28<sup>th</sup> March 2007 meeting be approved and be signed by the Chair.

**(ii) Matters arising**

Nil.

**4. Public Question Time (Standing Order 34)**

Nil.

**5. Review of Mental Health Provision in Warwickshire (Phase II) – Final Report of the Mental Health Panel**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Performance and Development together with the final report of the Mental Health Panel of the review of mental health provision in Warwickshire (Phase II).

Alwin McGibbon said that during the course of the review, the organisational structure for NHS mental health services was reorganised by the establishment of the new Coventry & Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust. It was too early to conclude how well that organisation was performing and therefore there would be a further report next year to on progress in this area.

The following issues arose during the Committee's discussion of the panel's report:-

- (1) There was an issue about people in the north of the county not being able to access a psychiatrist. There was a need to ensure equality of provision between the north and south of the county.
- (2) Staffing for mental health services in North Warwickshire and South Warwickshire had seemed to be settled under the old arrangements.

Unfortunately, it had not been possible to ascertain the impact on services of the new Trust because of changes in staff.

- (3) It was noted that some children were staying away from school so that they could care for parents who were suffering from mental illness. Consideration should be given to whether there was a need to expand the staffing that supported children carers to enable them to access schools.
- (4) Paragraph 4.3.8 – Consideration should be given to passing on files when there was a change in the professionals dealing with patients.
- (5) It was hoped that the Warwickshire PCT would continue to support the Young Carers Project.
- (6) Paragraph 18.9 – It could be a problem for elderly people bordering on senility to gain access to help.
- (7) Keith Ward asked that the report be passed to the Public and People Involvement Forum so that they could look at it and, if necessary, make recommendations from the patients' point of view. This was agreed.
- (8) It would be necessary to look at the Local Delivery Plan for the new Trust to ensure that it was fit for purpose.
- (9) Young Carers under 16 were not eligible to claim the carers allowance – they should at least be supported financially.

It was then Resolved:-

- (1) That a copy of this report to be made available to the Children, Young People and Families Directorate and the Adult, Health and Community Services Directorate for comment on recommendations being made below.
- (2) That the Children, Young People and Families Directorate and the Adult, Health and Community Services Directorate provide a report to Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee later in 2007 on the progress being made in the areas outlined in paragraph 17.2 of the Mental Health Panel's report (Phase II).
- (3) That the above report should include progress being made by new Coventry & Warwickshire Mental Health and Learning Disability NHS Trust to the proposals suggested in the consultation document and recommendations suggested by Warwickshire County Council on the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2006 (see section 12.10 – 12.13 of the report)
- (4) That formal arrangements be developed with education providers to allow Young Carers Projects access to schools.

- (5) That the suggestions in paragraph 17.3 of the report be reviewed by the Children, Young People and Families Directorate to see which could be supported and implemented in some way and report their findings to Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee in December 2007.
- (6) That the Children, Young People and Families Directorate conduct a separate review of funding arrangements for Young Carers Project.
- (7) That additional funding be made available for North Warwickshire to improve equity of access to Young Carers Project.
- (8) That information about carers' entitlement to benefits and allowances be made available on the Warwickshire Web with link to Directgov site [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk) for further information to improve take up of allowances.
- (9) That the Primary Care Trust acknowledges the support Age Concern Warwickshire provides for older people and works in partnership to ensure that those services continue.
- (10) That the NHS Trusts provide a report to Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, by the end of 2007, on progress of psychiatric services in acute care
- (11) That the relevant portfolio holders for Children, Young People and Families be given a copy of this report for comment to respond on the recommendations that relate to Young Carers Project – recommendations (4) to (8)
- (12) That the report be forwarded to Cabinet for their comments on recommendations (4) to (8) relating to young carers.
- (13) A copy of the report be made available for Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee for comment and respond to the suggestion of a joint review of mental health provision with Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 2008

The Committee also approved the front cover for the report.

**6. Report from Health OSC and PPI Forum Event – ‘Learning the Lessons, Handling the Change: Working in Partnership’**

The report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development was considered.

The following items arose during the discussion:-

- (1) The PPIF were concerned that LINKs were becoming unwieldy.
- (2) There was a need for the PPIF to have the same rights of access to Care Homes as it had to hospitals.
- (3) The Committee should have an annual event involving the PPIF and others to assist networking.

**7. Draft Terms of Reference for the Review of Palliative Care**

The report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development was considered and it was Resolved:-

- (1) That the terms of reference for the review of ‘Palliative Care’ be agreed
- (2) That the Panel members comprise 3 County Councillors, 1 District/Borough Councillor and a representative of the Patient and Public Involvement Forum.

The Chair said that the District/Borough Councillors co-opted to the Committee would be asked to agree between themselves who from among them would serve on the panel. The identification of the PPIF representative would be left to Keith Ward.

**8. Annual Report**

The report of the Chair was considered and it was Resolved:-

That the Annual Report of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee be approved for onward transmission to the County Council meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2007.

**9. Correspondence**

**(1) Visit to Warwick Hospital**

The Committee agreed to accept the offer of the Chief Executive of the South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust to visit Warwick Hospital. The following were suggested as possibilities for the visit:-

- (i) A visit to the new paediatric unit/ambulatory cancer care.
- (ii) The opportunity to discuss issues with members of staff during the visit.
- (iii) Checking on arrangements for ensuring that elderly patients who had difficulty in feeding themselves were fed properly.
- (iv) Checking on the situation with regard to mix sex wards.

**(2) George Eliot Hospital**

The Committee noted the response of the George Eliot Hospital to the Doctor Foster Hospital Guide. It was noted that better recording might have improved the reported situation, however, the situation would always be poor because the average age of patients concerned was high.

**(3) Patient and Public Involvement Forum Health Check Submissions**

- (i) South Warwickshire General Hospitals
- (ii) Coventry Primary Care Trust
- (iii) Warwickshire Primary Care Trust

These documents were noted.

**(4) Maternity Services Liaison Committee – annual report**

This was noted.

**10. Future meetings and work programme to date**

The programme was noted.

The following points were raised:-

- (1) The Borough/District Councils would be invited to comment on the programme.
- (2) Although there was no reference to specific work on inequalities of health service, this issue would be addressed in all reviews undertaken by the Committee.
- (3) A review should be held into the impact of the legislation banning smoking in public places from July 2007 after a reasonable period to give it time to work.
- (4) West Midlands review of paediatric services.

Other suggestions were:-

- (a) Stroke Care.
- (b) Patient-led NHS.
- (c) Patient Choice.

- (d) Practice Based Commissioning.
- (e) Regular reports on Provider Strategy Board, Acute Trusts, NHS Warwickshire and Mental Health Trust.

**11. Any other Items**

**(1) Seminar on PCT Strategy**

The Seminar was arranged for 10 a.m. on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2007. Members were asked to confirm with Alwin McGibbon whether they could attend.

**(2) Coventry and Warwickshire Breastfeeding Review**

The Committee confirmed that they would be interested in accepting an invitation to evaluate the review.

**(3) Brierley Hill Ambulance Visit**

It was confirmed that the visit would take place on the 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2007.

The Committee adjourned from 11.48 a.m. to 1.45 p.m.

**12. Ambulance Trust**

Keith Prior, the new Locality Director Coventry & Warwickshire, West Midlands Ambulance Trust, introduced himself to the Committee.

The following points arose through the ensuing discussion:-

- (1) The average cost of ambulance repairs last year was £18,000 in house and £54,000 for commercial repairs. Less serious repairs were completed in house because the NHS contracted for spare parts at advantageous costs and speed of repairs reduced the time ambulances were off the road. When an ambulance was sent for commercial repairs, it was necessary to strip out the equipment it carried.
- (2) Although there had been savings as a result of the merger between ambulance trusts, those savings had been reinvested in front line services.
- (3) There would be a need for more paramedics and ECPs in future as more people were treated on site rather than being taken to hospital.

The Chair thanked Keith Prior for attending.

**13. Local Delivery Plans Update**

Paul Maubach and Gill Entwistle attended to give a quick presentation on the Local Delivery Plan. The biggest challenge facing the PCT was the change to a maximum of eighteen weeks between referral by a GP and receiving treatment. Services would need to be reconfigured to enable this to happen.



The Chair asked that the PCT involve the Committee at an early stage in the process. It was understood that there were difficulties in the previous year arising from the merger of the three former PCTs in Warwickshire.

**14. Alcester Hospital Development**

David Rose, Chief Executive of NHS Warwickshire, attended to give a presentation on the Alcester Hospital development. The hospital was not fit for purpose and there was a need to replace it. In 2004 three Alcester GPs formed a limited company, the Alcester Doctors Consortium, with the aim of purchasing the Hospital site from the South Warwickshire PCT to develop a new build comprising two GP practices and a new hospital providing improved facilities and flexible accommodation to provide community services. It had been proposed that the PCT would lease the hospital part of the building from the Consortium with the Consortium providing facilities management. The South Warwickshire PCT Board and the West Midlands South Strategic Health Authority approved the business case in May 2006. Following his appointment as Chief Executive in November 2006, a number of concerns about the proposal arose and an external organisation was commissioned to review the full business case. The advice given from the review was that the structure of the deal was unlikely to offer value for money because the ownership of the building would have remained with the Consortium at the end of the lease term. There was no evidence that the Consortium were able to deliver development. No independent checks had been undertaken to confirm the Consortium's commercial and financial capabilities. The PCT would not have had the flexibility to review or redesign the facilities over a 30-year period. The Consortium withdrew from the agreement when it became clear that the PCT could not guarantee that the Consortium would be the supplier under revised arrangements. Although there was no plan B, the PCT was committed to develop a five-year plan for health in Warwickshire by October 2007 and this would need to address the situation in Alcester.

A formal public consultation exercise would follow in October.

The Chair said that the PCT should engage the Committee and Cabinet at an early stage. He thanked David Rose for attending.

**15. Bedworth Health Centre – withdrawal of dental services for the disabled**

Jill Freer and Cathy Wyatt attended to answer questions on this issue. The service had not been withdrawn. The lift had broken down and it had not been certain how long it would take to repair it as a specialist part had to be ordered for it. In the event this took three months and cost £12,000. Families using the service were offered the choice of staying or going somewhere else. Two families had remained at Bedworth.

.....  
Chair

The Committee rose at 3.40 p.m.