

## **SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL**

**Thursday, 28 April, 2015 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Conference Room, Council House, Walsall**

### **Panel Members Present**

Councillor M. Longhi (Chair)  
Councillor T. Jukes (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor M. Bird  
Councillor R. Burley  
Councillor J. Fitzpatrick  
Councillor E. Hazell  
Councillor B. McCracken  
Councillor A. Nawaz  
Councillor L. Rattigan  
Councillor E. Russell  
Councillor D. Shires  
Councillor H. Sarohi

### **Portfolio Holders Present**

Councillor D. Coughlan – Social Care  
Councillor M. Nazir – Regeneration  
Councillor K. Hussain – Community Leisure and Culture  
Councillor B. Cassidy – Children's Services and Education

### **Officers Present**

Keith Skerman – Executive Director (Social Care and Inclusion)  
Andy Rust - Head of Joint Commissioning Unit  
Simon Tranter – Head of Regeneration Development and Delivery  
Steve Law – Service Manager, Estates and Property Manager  
Kate Bowers – Interim Head of Communities and Public Protection  
Barbara Watt – Director of Public Health  
Salma Ali – Accountable Officer (CCG Group)  
Richard Kirby – Chief Executive (Walsall Housing Trust)  
Phil Griffin – Strategic Head for Service Transformation and Redesign  
Mike Morris – Group Manager (CYP)  
Tony Griffin – Assistant Director, Children's Services  
Nikki Gough – Committee Business and Governance Officer

### **419/15 Apologies**

Councillor C. Clews gave her apologies for the duration of the meeting.

#### **420/15 Substitutions**

Councillor A. Nawaz substituted for Councillor C. Clews for the duration of the meeting.

#### **421/15 Declarations of interest and party whip**

Councillor T. Jukes declared an interest as an employee of Walsall Healthcare Trust.

#### **422/15 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Councillor M. Bird stated that he felt that the minutes did not accurately reflect the discussion at the Panel meeting. A discussion was held and the minutes were agreed, subject to the inclusion of Councillor Fitzpatrick's apologies.

#### **423/15 Broadway North Cabinet Report**

The Chair raised a point of clarity regarding the agenda. This was that the description on the agenda of the item described the remit of Cabinet and not of the Scrutiny Panel. The role of the Scrutiny Panel was to make a recommendation to Cabinet based on the content of the report.

The Chair informed the Panel that the Neighbourhood's Scrutiny Panel and the Business Scrutiny Panel had been sent an invitation to attend the Panel meeting. Councillors M. Bird, D. Baker, D. Anson and R. Martin were in attendance and so were Members of the Business Scrutiny Panel. Councillors A. Nawaz and E. Russell were in attendance and were members of the Neighbourhood's Panel. Officers explained that the remit given to Officers by Cabinet was to consult with Mental Health users only, and this was the Council's statutory duty. The consultation exercise was detailed in the report (annexed). Officers stated that there was a clear consensus from service users that they were content to use an alternative venue. It was also emphasised that there was no intention to have budget or staff reductions. The Head of Regeneration Development and Delivery explained that the second part of the report dealt with land and property issues.

The Portfolio Holder for Social Care stated that all comments had been taken on board, and this was just the start of the process before [any future proposal for the site was considered] the site was declared surplus to requirements.

The Chair invited Members of the public to contribute to the debate. Councillor R. Martin informed the Panel that she had been assured that a petition related to Broadway North would be included in the Cabinet Report, however this had not happened. Councillor R. Martin tabled a document containing "supporting information" and spoke to the paper (tabled). She expressed concern about the future health needs of the community, and the

sale of a great asset. The Executive Director for Social Care stated that Officers had been instructed to consult mental health service users only, as statutory consultees, and should the site be declared surplus to requirements then consultation would take place with stakeholders. The Chair stated that this building was a Council asset, and only once Mental Health Services were relocated could the site be declared surplus to requirements. Once this had been decided future options could be considered.

Councillor D. Barker addressed the Panel and suggested that mental health service users should not be made to travel to alternative locations, and that finances should not be put before the needs of service users. The Executive Director of Social Care drew Members' attention to page 31 of the Cabinet Report which detailed service users' comments, these detailed advantages and disadvantages of alternative locations for service users.

Officers emphasised that service users' views had been taken into account and that the cost of relocating the service was small.

A member of the public indicated to speak and explained that he knew the service users currently located at Broadway North. He suggested that care needed to be taken when dealing with mental health services, and that disruption of the synergy between various parts would weaken and fragment services. He suggested that residents from Park Hall were able to mix with mental health service users and this had many community benefits, and had meant that it had grown as part of the community – it should be treated with care for that reason.

The Executive Director reiterated that there was no suggestion that the service would cease or that there would be a reduction in staff, a community support hub for mental health service users would continue to be provided. Service users could see advantages to an alternative venue.

The Chairman of Park Hall Community Association addressed Members and stated that there was a great need for the Community Association and that it worked with people with mental health problems and a good service was provided which no one else could provide. It was emphasised that there was no other provision in Walsall South to provide community services.

The Chair clarified that this was a report to Cabinet and Members of the Scrutiny Panel were being asked to comment on it. Barry Sanders stated that the Community Association was flourishing in Chuckery which was a deprived area with no medical facilities. Officers stated that a decision to sell the site had not been taken. The Chair also reiterated that the decision to sell the site had not been made.

Another Member of the Panel stated that the decision to sell the site would not be in the best interests of the communities' health and wellbeing. The Licence of the Community Association was discussed.

A motion was proposed by Councillor M. Bird. It was agreed that the Panel would adjourn while the motion was copied and circulated.

The Panel adjourned at 7.20 p.m. and reconvened at 7.35 p.m.

The motion was seconded by Councillor McCracken and discussed by the Panel. The Chair of the Panel proposed an amendment, which was seconded and debated.

The Portfolio Holder for Social Care responded and stated that consultation had been done to empower service users and the options suggested had been raised by service users. A Member expressed concern that if Mental Health Services were relocated it would be the first step to the building closing.

The amendment was put to the vote, a named vote was requested.

Councillor M. Longhi – For  
Councillor T. Jukes – Abstain  
Councillor M. Bird – For  
Councillor R. Burley – Abstain  
Councillor A. Nawaz – Abstain  
Councillor J. Fitzpatrick – Abstain  
Councillor E. Hazell – For  
Councillor B. McCracken – For  
Councillor L. Rattigan – For  
Councillor E. Russell – Abstain  
Councillor H. Sarohi – Abstain  
Councillor D. Shires – For

The substantive motion was voted on and carried.

### **Resolved**

This Scrutiny Committee request Cabinet to investigate the proposal to seek to provide a 21<sup>st</sup> Century health facility by utilising the Primark/Co-op model of securing a tenant/tenants for a long term lease arrangement and that Walsall MBC fund the building of a new facility on the Broadway North site and in doing so look to secure partnership funding from either the public or private sector and to ensure that Park Hall Community Association are included within the new facility to deliver the “preventative” health agenda.

It is also requested that Cabinet consider other options that become available as part of a broad options appraisal.

### **424/15 Petition: Cuts to Services for Disabled Children and Adults in Walsall**

The Chair of the Panel explained that this petition was raised by Councillor Clews, who was unable to attend the meeting; Councillor Nawaz was substituting on her behalf.

The Executive Director for Social Care stated that the issue had arisen out of budget consultation and a £3.5 million reduction had been granted for Adults Social Care. Officers emphasised that the Council were not seeking to withdraw the service; however it would be redesigned to improve the way services were delivered. The Chair invited members of the public to speak and they declined.

The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services stated that to further assist families a further £32,000 had been injected to provide transport for families using respite care. A discussion was held on the criteria for short breaks for children. Officers explained that eligibility depended on the complexity of a child's needs and stated that they were happy to provide further information outside of the meeting.

**Resolved that;**

The following resolution was forwarded to Cabinet:-

"not to further reduce services in their planned cuts to these vulnerable groups including cuts to respite transport from special schools, year 14 Education in Special Schools, Educational provision, short term breaks/care in Children and Adults Services and scrap excessive charging for transport to Day Centres".

**425/15 Securing Strategic Transformation of Health and Social Care Services in Walsall**

The Accountable Officer (Walsall CCG) informed Members that she would be describing plans for the strategic transformation of Health and Social Care Services in Walsall. A joint programme of work would enable the Healthcare system to manage the next set of challenges. It was important that the right set of plans were well developed. The progress made to date was described, as in the report (annexed). In the future the Health and Social Care economy has significant potential to develop and deliver a more integrated, community-facing model of care. The following points were raised:-

- Nursing Homes would be used to avoid admissions to hospital;
- Clearer discharge arrangements would be built on;
- There was an opportunity to shape the direction of travel of the Health and Social Care economy.

The Chair stated that he was aware of the efforts of the NHS but that a number of crises meant that something different had to be done. It was hoped that this would provide a platform for more information to be provided to the Panel.

**Resolved**

The Social Care and Health Scrutiny Panel agreed to suspend standing orders and allow the meeting to continue past three hours.

The Chief Executive of Walsall Healthcare Trust stated that in the future actions needed to be bigger and bolder to deal with difficult issues. Panel Members accepted that Officers were right to push the agenda for change and it was positive to know that working relationships were good.

The Accountable Officer stated that work needed to continue to ensure that the views of people who did not speak English were captured. The use of the voluntary sector needed to increase to get people home from hospital safely. Members stated that there was an opportunity to work with groups in the community who wanted to care for their family at home. Officers from the CCG stated that they would be bringing geographic areas in line with area partnerships.

### **Resolved**

1. The Social Care and Health Scrutiny Panel receive further updates on the case for change in the new municipal year;
2. Some feedback on “Step Up, Step Down” beds is provided with a visit for Members arranged.

### **426/15 CCG Operational Plan**

Officers introduced the CCG operational plan. The following points were raised:-

- Talks were underway about a Mental Health Services concordat;
- Co-commissioning would commence in April;
- Seven day services at the Hospital were being progressed;
- New services would be procured including the Walk in Centre.

The Chair welcomed the report and asked for some further information in the future on the evidence of impact of co-commissioning.

### **427/15 Update on the Care Act**

The Panel agreed to defer an update on the Care Act to a future meeting.

### **428/15 Work Programme and Forward Plan**

Members agreed that it should be recommended that the Aids and Adaptations Working Group is re-established.

**429/15 Private Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The private Minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 March, 2015 were agreed.

**430/15 Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting was to be confirmed.

**Termination of Meeting**

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 9.20 p.m.

Signed: .....

Date: .....