

HEALTH SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

22 June 2009 at 6 p.m.

Panel Members present

Councillor Ault
Councillor Aftab
Councillor Carpenter
Councillor Creaney
Councillor Robertson
Councillor Paul

Also present

Jim Weston

Officers present

Margaret Willcox – Assistant Director Adult Services
Steph Simcox – Head of Finance - Social, Care and Inclusion
Dr Sam Ramaiah – Director of Public Health
Marsha Ingram – Head of Corporate Affairs Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust

01/09 APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillor Woodruff, Dr Desai, Doreen Russell, and Sue Hartley.

02/09 SUBSTITUTIONS

There were no substitution(s) for the duration of this meeting.

03/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of interest or party whip identified at this meeting.

04/09 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2009, copies having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

05/09 TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The panel noted the training opportunities as previously circulated.

06/09 INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH SCRUTINY

Margaret Willcox informed the panel that she would be giving a presentation on 'health scrutiny' as a reminder of health scrutiny powers (annexed).

A member of the panel asked what 'Monitor' was, Officers explained that this was the body which assesses Trusts suitability for Foundation Trust Status, adding that this was a national regulatory body.

07/09 **WORK PROGRAMME 2009/10**

The Chair introduced the work programme report and asked members to consider items that they wanted to add to the panels work programme for the year.

Members discussed the issue of car parking at the Manor Hospital and the affect this has on patients and residents of Walsall. After discussion the panel agreed to add this to their work programme. Dr Sam Ram Ramaiah informed the panel that 'my NHS Walsall', a group created by Parliament, was considering the issue of car parking as a priority. Councillor Creaney expressed the opinion that the charges were too high for people who had been 'rushed' into hospital. Dr Sam Ramaiah stated that these charges were even higher at neighbouring hospitals. Jim Weston offered to distribute copies of the financial accounts of the Manor Hospital in relation to this to members.

The Chair invited Clive Wright to present on the partnerships priorities. A summary of Walsall Partnerships business plan was tabled (annexed). Clive Wright suggested that the minutes of the Health and Well Being Group were sent to members for their information. The panel discussed National Indicators (NIs) and those that would be most suited to be reported to the panel. It was agreed that the panel would receive NI 56 and NI 120 with a watching brief on those that crossed into the Health Scrutiny Panels remit on a quarterly basis.

Councillor Creaney raised concerns about the methods for collecting data. Members agreed that they would consider the criteria for assessing children for obesity. Dr Sam Ramaiah explained that as a result of some concerns raised by parents, letters addressing potential weight issues in children would be changing. Also a re-measurement of the child and advice from staff to parents would be offered. Dr Ramaiah stated that obesity and overweight is a major problem and public health concern without the cooperation of parents no progress would be made. Councillor Robertson stated that this was a health time bomb but that it needed to be dealt with sensitively.

Clive Wright agreed to report back detailing at which panel NIs would be reported in the future and agreed it was important they were reported somewhere.

Dr Sam Ramaiah informed the panel that poverty drives health inequalities, and that the panel may want to question organisations in Walsall to examine how health inequalities can be reduced. Members discussed the number of fast food outlets in Walsall and the detrimental effect on people's health.

Marsha Ingram explained that since the creation of the new Dudley Walsall Mental Health Partnership Trust they have been reporting separately to Dudley Health Scrutiny Panel and Walsall Health Scrutiny Panel. Members were informed that the Trust were developing a Clinical and Social Care vision, which the panel may wish to be involved in. Members agreed that progression towards a joint committee would be beneficial.

Councillor Paul commented on the recent improvement in care at Dorothy Pattison Hospital. Officers commented that investment had been made in the material structure of buildings.

The panel discussed the issue of dementia and strategies for increasing provision. The panel also discussed Local Involvement Networks. Jim Weston raised concerns that volunteers were not recognised for their participation and were concerned that they were being criticised by the Council. The panel agreed that it needed to be updated on the future of LINks and be fully informed of the issue. Officers explained that the host agency had faced problems attracting volunteers to form part of the LINK. Margaret Willcox stated that there were huge differences in provision across Councils.

The panel discussed the major contributory factors to perinatal and infant mortality. Dr Sam Ramaiah stated that a lot was being done and that he could present if the panel wished and suggested that this would be best taken in 6 months. Councillor Creaney asked what was being done about alcohol and drug abuse, Dr Sam Ramaiah stated that there were specific programmes to help mothers stay drug/alcohol free throughout their pregnancy but that this was a complex problem, although very small numbers of pregnant women misuse substances.

Foundation Trust status at the Manor Hospital was discussed the panel agreed to invite Sue James to present on the progress of the new hospital (PFI) and Foundation Trust status.

Officers suggested that the panel consider how the financial situation at the PCT would be managed post 2011, with an increasingly elderly population with increased needs.

Members discussed foundation trust status for West Midlands Ambulance Service and agreed that they may need further information on whether this was going ahead.

The panel agreed that 'waiting lists' and 'cancelled operations' at the Manor Hospital should be put on the work programme for the year.

Jim Weston informed the panel that he had been into the council house to assist officers in identifying the problem with the hearing aid loop system, as a result of this one room had been modified and he had been invited in to test out the system, and he would report back to the panel on this progress.

Resolved

That

- The minutes of the LAA Health and Well Being Group are distributed to panel members

And that the following items be added to the work programme for the Health Scrutiny and Performance Panel for 2009/10:

- Car parking charges at the Manor Hospital
- National Indicator 56 and National Indicator 120 with a watching brief on those that crossed into the Health Scrutiny Panels remit on a quarterly basis
- PCT Criteria for assessing children for obesity

- Clinical and Social Care vision for Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership Trust
- Progression towards a joint committee with Dudley Health Scrutiny Panel to consider issues from Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership Trust
- World Class Commissioning
- Manor Hospital Private Finance Initiative (PFI)
- Manor Hospital Foundation Trust Status
- Waiting lists and cancelled operations at the Manor Hospital
- Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership Trust
- West Midlands Ambulance Service Foundation Trust Status
- Dementia Strategy
- Updated on the future of LINKs to include a presentation explaining LINKs
- Health Inequality strategy
- Perinatal and infant mortality in 6 months
- Annual Health Check
- Performance and Financial Monitoring

09/07 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 27 July 2009.

The meeting terminated at 7.45 pm.

Chair:

Date: