

HEALTH SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

Monday, 7 March, 2011 at 6.00 p.m.

Conference Room, Council House, Walsall

Panel Members Present

Councillor Yasin (Chair)
Councillor Ahmed
Councillor Longhi
Councillor Robertson
Councillor Thomas

Officers present

Paul Davies – Executive Director (Social Care and Inclusion)
Andy Rust - Head of Vulnerable Adults, Joint Commissioning, NHS Walsall
Marsha Ingram - Head of Corporate Affairs, Dudley Walsall Mental Health Trust
Yvonne Thomas - Director of Partnerships
Phil Griffin - Assistant Director of Primary Care Contracting, NHS Walsall
Gail Fortes-Mayer - Assistant Director, Specialised Children's Services
Nikki Gough – Scrutiny Officer

56/11 Apologies

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillor V. Woodruff and Councillor Azam.

57/11 Substitutions

There were no substitutions for the duration of the meeting.

58/11 Declarations of Interest and Party Whip

There were no declarations of interest and party whip.

59/11 Minutes

Resolved

That

That the minutes of the meeting that took place on 4 January 2011, and 14 January 2011 copies having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

60/11 Child Heart Surgery Consultation

The Assistant Director, Specialised Children's Services informed Members that a review of children's congenital heart services are delivered in England and Wales had been carried out. Members were advised that they would be presented with options for the future of the service.

The Panel were advised that there were currently 11 centres across England, with roughly 4,000 cases across England, some centres were too small to sustain. The independent review aimed to ensure that all children get the care needed where ever they live. The consultation would run until 1 July 2011, with an anticipated decision winter 2011.

Following a query from the panel The Assistant Director, Specialised Children's Services explained that the same provision would be expected across all centres with the exception of transplants, although the numbers of children referred was relatively low at around 10 a year.

The Head of Vulnerable Adults asked what the impact of the proposals could have on Walsall. The Assistant Director, Specialised Children's Services explained that the proposals should not have a detrimental impact on Walsall, as it would be in the catchment area of Birmingham Children's Hospital which was included in all of the options. Birmingham Children's Hospital had also increased capacity to deal with increased demand for its services. It was confirmed that the

scores and clinical outcomes were available publicly. It was also clarified that the National Commissioning Board would commission the service.

The options for the future were discussed by the panel; Members did not feel able to express a preference as they did not have enough information about the implications of each option. The Assistant Director, Specialised Children's Services advised Members that a full business case was available on the internet which explains how options were arrived at. A Member suggested that it was suggested that option A put less pressure on Birmingham. The Panel agreed that they would like further information on the options available and the impact this would have on Birmingham and Walsall. The Director of Partnerships suggested that some demand modelling may give assurances around demand and capacity.

Resolved

That

Further information on the options within the Child Heart Surgery Consultation is taken to the Panel, to allow an informed response.

61/11 Update on Health and Social Care Bill

The Director of Partnerships presented the report on public and patient involvement in a changing NHS (annexed). The changes that would take place at NHS Walsall over the coming years were discussed, including the reorganisation and eventual abolishment of PCTs. This would include reducing the number of commissioning staff to make the necessary savings. Also provider services would be transferred out of NHS Walsall. Members were also informed that PCTs would be clustered and Walsall PCT would belong to the Black Country cluster, for which a Chief Executive had been appointed.

The role of GP consortia was discussed; Members were advised that in Walsall there are two consortia – Walsall GP Commissioning Consortium and the Trans Walsall Independent Commissioning Consortium. The consortia had produced a draft structure which was out for consultation. In response to a Member query officers confirmed that all GPs in Walsall were part of one of the two consortia which currently were identifying areas of collaborative working and how

governance would work. Officers emphasised that at the moment the situation was stable but that the panel should be aware that this could change.

The Panel were informed that the council had put forward to be an early implementer of the Health and Well Being Board.

A discussion around the risks of the Manor Hospital not achieving Foundation Trust status was held, officers confirmed that they would be looking to situate any problems and act accordingly. However at the moment this was not an issue.

The Head of Corporate Affairs explained that by January 2011 all Trusts were expected to do an assessment of readiness for foundation trust status. The Head of Vulnerable Adults suggested that it was in the council's interest to ensure that Trusts such as Dudley Walsall Mental Health Trust achieved Foundation Trust status and they would be working in partnership to ensure this was achieved.

62/11 Emergency Dental Care in Walsall

The Assistant Director of Primary Care Contracting presented the report on NHS Walsall's proposed relocation of Walsall Dental Access Centre (annexed). Members were informed that the Walsall Dental Access Centre was currently based in the NHS Walk-in-Centre in the Market Square in Walsall Town Centre. Officers advised Members that as the service was town centre based it restricted choice to the patient; also as the long term lease had expired there was a risk of closure at short notice if the landlord terminated the lease. Members were assured that even though relocation was proposed the service would remain at the same level.

In response to a Member query officers confirmed that 2,000 people accessed the emergency dental care service in Walsall and of these 1400 people had made an appointment. Members queried the consultation process to date; NHS officers stated that if scrutiny did not consider this to be a substantial change no formal consultation was required. Officers confirmed that there would be an evaluation process which can be shared with Members. In terms of the use of the

service across the borough, officers confirmed that there was a demand from across the borough as a whole.

Resolved

That

Health Scrutiny and Performance Panel Members support NHS Walsall's plan to relocate the Dental Access Centre as set out in the report 'NHS Walsall's proposed relocation of Walsall Dental Access Centre', subject to an evaluation report to the Panel in October 2011.

63/11 Re-appointment of the Joint Dudley Walsall Health Scrutiny Committee

2010/11

The Panel considered the report on the re-establishment of the Joint Dudley Walsall Health Scrutiny Committee 2010/11.

Resolved

That

1. The discretionary joint overview and scrutiny committee with Dudley Council was re-established to oversee the progress of the Dudley Walsall Mental Health Partnership Trust until the end of the 2010/11
2. The terms of reference were approved
3. Councillors Ahmed, Thomas, Yasin, Longhi, and Woodruff were appointed to the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

64/11 Quarter 3 Financial Monitoring Position for 2010/11

Lloyd Haynes presented the report on Learning Disabilities and Integrated Community Equipment Stores pooled budget (annexed).

Resolved

The Health Scrutiny and Performance Panel noted the report.

65/11 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the date of the next meeting was 28 April, 2011 and would take place at the Council House, Walsall.

Termination of meeting

The meeting terminated at 7.25 p.m.

Signed:

Date: