

## **HEALTH SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL**

**Tuesday, 4 January, 2011 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Conference Room, Council House, Walsall**

### **Panel Members Present**

Councillor Yasin (Chair)  
Councillor Woodruff (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Ahmed  
Councillor Azam  
Councillor Creaney  
Councillor Longhi  
Councillor Robertson  
Councillor Sears  
Councillor Thomas

### **Officers present**

Paul Davies - Executive Director (Social Care and Inclusion)  
Peter Davis - Head of Community Care (Social Care and Inclusion)  
Nikki Gough - Scrutiny Officer  
John Grant - Scientific Manager, Walsall Council  
Robert Mackie - Interim Chief Executive, NHS Walsall  
Giovanni Mastrantone - LINK Board Member  
Peter Murtagh - Director of Commissioning, West Midlands Ambulance Service  
Jullian Rainsford - NHS Walsall  
Michael Scott - Interim Chief Executive, Walsall Manor Hospital

#### **42/11 Apologies**

There were no apologies submitted for non-attendance at the meeting.

#### **43/11 Substitutions**

There were no substitutions for the duration of the meeting.

#### **44/11 Declarations of Interest and Party Whip**

Councillor V. Woodruff declared an interest as an employee of Walsall Hospitals Trust.

#### 45/11 LINK referral: Walsall Health Inequalities Strategy

Giovanni Mastrantone presented to the Panel (annexed) and informed Members that the LINK wished to refer the issue of health inequalities to the Health Scrutiny and Performance Panel. Included in this was a discussion on air quality.

The Executive Director agreed to provide a response to the following question:-

**Q** What is the Council's assessment of its current

- Competencies.
- Capabilities.
- Capacity.

to deliver what equity and excellence: liberating the NHS and healthy lives, healthy people: our strategy for public health in England expects of it?

It was agreed that the Executive Director would endeavour to do so by 7 February, 2011 but that there was flexibility to extend this date if required.

Councillor Yasin explained that the changes being introduced by the Government may allow the Council more power to deal with refusal of planning applications on the grounds of health, but currently the Council did not have this power.

Officers confirmed that the Public Health White Paper was still out for consultation, which meant that proposals were still uncertain.

In relation to a discussion on air quality, the Scientific Manager informed the Panel that Walsall has been working across boundaries for some time as part of an arrangement with the 7 West Midlands local authorities; this included development of an emissions database for regional and local air quality which supplemented work carried out by the Pollution Control laboratory. In addition to this, Walsall has an established monitoring network (serviced and maintained by the laboratory) which is a key part of ongoing work to assess air quality. The Panel were also informed that planning applications were screened as necessary for air quality impacts and mitigation measures requested as appropriate.

#### **Resolved**

In response to the LINK's questions, the Panel resolve that:-

- (1) The Executive Director will provide a response to the LINK on the Council's assessment of its current competencies, capabilities to deliver what equity and excellence: liberating the NHS and healthy lives, healthy people: our strategy for public health in England;
- (2) The Health Scrutiny and Performance Panel is satisfied that strategies are in place for tackling health inequalities and health improvement in the Borough.

Giovanni Mastrantone was thanked for his presentation.

#### 46/11 **West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) Foundation Status consultation**

The Director of Commissioning presented to the Panel (annexed). Members were asked for feedback on proposals for WMAS to become a Foundation Trust. The Panel were advised that there was a risk of Government action if WMAS did not progress their Foundation Trust application.

Councillor Longhi asked what the benefits of becoming a Foundation Trust were. The Director of Commissioning stated that the application process encourages the Trust plan for the future more effectively and consider what commissioners require. In addition to this, the membership of the Foundation Trust would help inform service developments.

Councillor Robertson asked what the disadvantages of Foundation Trust status were. The Director of Commissioning discussed changes due to be implemented and stated although investment would need to be made, efficiencies should be generated. The Panel were informed of plans to improve facilities within the ambulance service. Officers confirmed that further information on these proposals would be taken to the Panel.

#### **Resolved**

That:-

- (1) Based on the options for Foundation Trust status, the Health Scrutiny and Performance Panel are happy with the WMAS application for Foundation Trust status;
- (2) Further information will be taken to Panel by WMAS on the issues affecting Walsall.

#### 47/11 **NHS Walsall savings plan**

The Chief Executive presented to the Panel (annexed). Members were informed that NHS Walsall had just received details of the operating framework, however, these were headline figures and further detail was to be confirmed by Government. The Panel were informed that QUIPP stood for quality, innovation, productivity and prevention.

On a point of clarification, in reference to the slide 'contracting and pricing', Robert Mackie clarified that the lines reading 'ambulance' and 'specialised services' should be swapped.

Members were informed that NHS Walsall hoped to see some efficiencies in 2011/12 as a result of lifestyle intervention through improved health e.g. smoking cessation.

Councillor Creaney asked what work was being done in NHS to deal with obesity and encourage active play. The Chair confirmed that the Health Scrutiny and Performance Panel was due to receive a presentation on dealing with obesity on 14 January, 2011 at 6.00 p.m. The Chief Executive suggested that this was an area which would transfer over with public health to the Local Authority.

Councillor Robertson asked what NHS Walsall's policy was on high cost drugs. The Chief Executive confirmed that NHS Walsall follow NICE guidelines. Councillor Robertson suggested that one organisation's savings can be another organisation's costs and questioned how NHS Walsall would mitigate this. Robert Mackie confirmed that this was about working differently where it would be of benefit for Walsall residents. The Chief Executive of Walsall Manor Hospital confirmed that he had been impressed with the level of partnership working in Walsall.

#### **48/11 Transforming Community Services**

Officers provided an update on transforming community services following previous involvement by the Panel. Officers confirmed that the original proposals for service transfers were supported by the Board. This included:-

- Transfer of Community Services to an acute and community integrated core organisation.
- Transfer of services for people with learning disabilities to Sandwell Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust.
- Transfer of salaried dental services to Birmingham Community Healthcare Trust.

The Panel were made aware that Walsall Carers Group had expressed concerns over the transfer to Sandwell Mental Health Trust. Concerns were around dilution of services. Officers confirmed that services were held and retained in Walsall. The Executive Director confirmed that he was meeting 4/6 weekly at Sandwell Trust. Councillor Woodruff asked if there would be any changes for the patient accessing these services after 1 April, 2011. Officers stated that there would be no proposed change to service delivery.

Officers informed the Panel that a social enterprise application from the Blakenall Meadow GP practice was not supported by the Board. NHS Walsall would then conduct an open procurement exercise to identify a new provider of GP services.

Councillor Robertson asked what the interim arrangements were for Blakenall Meadow GP practice. Officers confirmed that proposals would be invited from Walsall practices to run the patient lists on an interim basis. NHS Walsall stated that they were confident that a practice would be willing to take it over.

**Resolved**

That:-

The Health Scrutiny and Performance Panel noted the update on Transforming Community Services.

Councillor Woodruff asked for an update on seasonal flu and the current impact on Walsall NHS Trusts, to be sent to Members of the Health Scrutiny and Performance Panel, outside of the meeting.

**49/11 Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the date of the next meeting was 14 January, 2011 and would take place at the Council House, Walsall.

**Termination of meeting**

The meeting terminated at 8.10 p.m.

Signed: .....

Date: .....