

Special Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 14th July 2021 at. 6.00 p.m.

Committee Members Present

Councillor Hussain (Chair)
Councillor Allen
Councillor D. Coughlan
Councillor Gandham
Councillor Johal
Councillor Murphy
Councillor Pedley
Councillor Sarohi
Councillor Waters

Portfolio Holders Present

Councillor S. Craddock – Health and Well Being
Councillor R. Martin – Adult Social Care

Officers

Kerrie Allward	Executive Director Social Care for Adults
Nikki Gough	Democratic Services Officer, Walsall Council

Dudley Walsall Mental Health Trust

Mark Axcell	Chief Executive
Marsha Foster	Director of Partnerships
Debbie Cooper	Divisional Director for Older Peoples Services,
Dr Usman Khalid	Clinical Director for Older Peoples Services
Vanessa Wright	Divisional Director of Nursing for Older Peoples Services

Walsall Healthcare Trust and Wolverhampton Trust

David Loughton	Acting Chief Executive Walsall Healthcare Trust and Chief Executive of Wolverhampton Hospital Trust
Roseanne Crossey	Head of Business Development and Planning
Mr Mirza	Divisional Director Surgery
Mr Pete Cooke	Clinical lead Urology Wolverhampton
Glenda Augustine	Director of Planning and Improving
Mike Sharon	Strategic Adviser to Board at Wolverhampton
Jane McKinernan	Strategic Project Lead
Mr Ganta	Senior Urologist
Geraint Griffiths-Dale	Accountable Office – BCWB CCG
Andy Rust	Head of Primary Care and Place Commissioning BCWB CCG

Note: This meeting was held in the Town Hall in accordance with s.102 of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Council's Constitution. In order to comply with social distancing requirements as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the meeting was conducted via Microsoft Teams in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders for Remote Meetings.

Welcome

At this point in the meeting, the Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, and explaining the rules of procedure and legal context in which the meeting was being held. He also directed members of the public viewing the meeting to the papers, which could be found on the Council's Committee Management Information system (CMIS) webpage. Members confirmed that they could both see and hear the proceedings.

40/41 Apologies

There were no apologies received for the duration of the meeting.

41/20 Substitutions

There were no substitutions for the duration of the meeting.

42/20 Declarations of Interest and party whip

Councillor K. Pedley declared an interest as the Partner of an employee of Walsall Healthcare Trust. Councillor B. Allen declared an interest as an employee of Walsall Healthcare Trust.

43/20 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting that took place on 8th April 2021 were discussed.

Resolved (by roll call)

That the minutes of the meeting held 8th April 2021, were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

The Committee agreed to receive item 8 prior to item 6.

44/21 Proposals for Acute Urology Services in Walsall and Wolverhampton.

The Head of Business Development and Planning presented the report and highlighted the salient points (annexed). The Committee were informed that the aim of the proposals was to ensure safer, and more responsive acute care provision to the residents of Walsall by merging elements of urological emergency and elective (inpatient) procedures from Walsall Healthcare Trust's to The Royal Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital site, while increasing the number of low complexity urological day case procedures at Walsall.

Following a query from a Member, the Committee were assured that outpatient procedures and follow-up consultations would continue to be undertaken in Walsall. The Trust were challenged to confirm that the transfer of patients from Wolverhampton to Walsall would be effective. Members were assured that processes were in place to ensure that pathways worked effectively.

A Member asked for clarity about how the length of patient stay would be reduced at the Royal Wolverhampton Hospital in comparison to Walsall Healthcare Trust. The Committee were informed that this was due to a bigger team, with greater access to interventional procedures which would allow a greater turnaround of procedures. It was also noted that day case procedures would be increased at Walsall Healthcare Trust.

Resolved (Unanimous)

Subject to a follow up report in 6 months, (detailing how the service was working for Walsall residents) the Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee support the implementation of the following proposals outlined in the report:

- 1. One urology department operating across Walsall and Wolverhampton dedicated to delivering safe, responsive, high quality care.**
- 2. Reduction in the times patients wait for procedures, and the length of time they need to remain in hospital by further developing high volume low complexity procedures at Walsall Healthcare Trust.**
- 3. All urological emergency and inpatient procedures to be undertaken at the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust's specialist site.**
- 4. Outpatient procedures and follow-up consultations will continue to be undertaken in Walsall.**

45/21

Planned Redevelopment of Bloxwich Hospital

The Chief Executive (DWMHT) introduced the report and highlighted the salient points (annexed). The challenges relating to the current building at Bloxwich hospital were described, including an inflexible layout, mixed gender wards, accessibility issues and costly building maintenance. The current bed provision was for two wards with a capacity of 26 beds, and the proposal planned for a capacity of 25 beds. The Trust were confident that this would be an adequate number of beds for the future.

The benefits of the new plans and the stakeholder engagement plans were described. Feedback included that bed numbers should be maintained, and comments about transport/parking had also been received, Members were assured that feedback would be considered when plans were developed. Staff consultation had revealed that staff

were supportive of the proposals, although concern in relation to car parking had been revealed.

Timescales were described, with the ultimate aim of opening in November 2021. The Committee heard from the Medical Director, who assured the Committee that staff were restricted by the environment of Bloxwich Hospital. The proposals would make a significant difference to the patient experience. Overall the Clinical view was that the redeveloped environment and the facilities would be significant.

Members expressed their support for the proposal however proposed bed numbers were challenged. The Committee were assured that data indicated that bed numbers would be future proof and flexibility would be improved.

Representatives were asked what provision would be provided for younger adults, and asked for clarification about a dementia friendly environment. In response the Committee were advised that the service responded to the need of the individual rather than the age of the individual.

The Mental Health Trust representatives were asked about the future use of Bloxwich Hospital, and Members were informed that the Trust would work with the Walsall Together Partnership to ensure that the best solution was found for the building.

In response to a query from a Member, assurances were provided that there would not be a reduction in staff numbers. However there would be more staff on site in case of emergency or need.

Resolved

The Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported the proposals to redevelop older people's mental health inpatient services in Walsall, currently provided at Bloxwich Hospital.

46/21

Walsall Healthcare Trust CQC inspection report

The Acting Chief Executive Walsall Healthcare Trust spoke to the report and highlighted the salient points (annexed). The CQC carried out an unannounced focused inspection of Walsall Healthcare Trust on 9 March 2021 following concerns about the safety and quality of services, specifically within the medical wards.

Following this inspection, the CQC issued a Section 29a warning notice to the Trust as significant improvement was required to the nurse staffing of the service, the governance of the service and how the Trust provided patients with a safe discharge. The notice gave the Trust three months to rectify the significant improvements identified. The CQC also identified other breaches of regulation for which they issued the Trust with requirement notices.

The Acting Chief Executive assured the Committee that staffing levels had been increased at Walsall Healthcare Trust, with the aim of reducing the need for agency staff. It was hoped that this would improve most issues highlighted in the inspection report.

A Member asked what immediate safeguarding measures had been put in place, the committee were assured that a team from Wolverhampton Hospital had been sent to support Walsall Healthcare Trust, and the Trust continued to work with Walsall Council. It was also noted that safeguarding issues were due to a high use of agency staff and this issue was also being dealt with.

In response to concern expressed around merging of Hospitals and loss of services in Walsall, Members were reassured that there would always be a need for a maternity service and an accident and emergency centre.

A Member stated that there were some exceptional NHS staff at the Walsall Healthcare Trust. The importance of recognising this was acknowledged in improving staff morale.

Members challenged training targets at Walsall Healthcare Trust, and it was stated that there was a historical backlog and this was now being invested in.

The Trust representative was asked what steps would be taken to reduce infection, the committee were informed that wards would be upgraded to ensure adequate cleaning could take place.

Members challenged issues relating to safeguarding at Walsall Healthcare Trust. The Acting Chief Executive assured Members that regular meetings were held with Walsall Council Chief Executive. The Executive Director stated that that the safeguarding concerns raised as part of the CQC report were not raised at the Safeguarding Board however subsequent concerns were with concerns periodically raised. The Committee were assured that a steering group was held in relation to safeguarding and this group reviewed improvement plans. It was noted that plans would need to be actively monitored.

Resolved

The Walsall Healthcare Trust CQC inspection report was noted.

47/21

Forward Plans

The Forward plans were considered.

Resolved

That the Forward plans were noted.

48/21

Date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting would be agreed at annual Council.

Termination of Meeting

The meeting terminated at 7.50 p.m.