

HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting: 9 October 2007
At: 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor Tom McGee (Chair) in the chair; Councillor Roy Driver (Vice-Chair);
Councillors Walter Brett, Susan Ingham, Bryan Leck, and John Pantall.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 28 August 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

3. CALL-IN

There were no items to consider.

4. STOCKPORT NHS FOUNDATION TRUST ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2006/2007

A report of the Chief Executive, Stockport NHS Foundation Trust was considered (copies of which had been circulated) which was the Stockport NHS Foundation Trust's Annual Report and Accounts for 2006/2007.

In addition, Dr Chris Burke, Chief Executive of the Stockport NHS Foundation Trust and Steven Smith, Director of Planning and Business Development, delivered a presentation entitled 'Every Patient Matters' which detailed information on the Trust's aspirations in respect of the following topics:

- Patients
- Finance
- Staffing
- Service
- Community

They reported on a number of positive staff achievements and commented that good progress was being made with particular regard to hygiene, cleanliness, infection control and safety issues at Stepping Hill Hospital. The whole hospital area had become a no smoking zone and the Trust had been endeavouring to educate all staff, patients and visitors in respect of the dangers associated with smoking with a view to promoting the message to 'quit'.

Councillors asked a number of questions with particular regard to:-

- The promotion of partnership working and partnership monitoring
- The need for sustainability in respect of (i) discharge planning and (ii) the promotion and achievement of cleanliness and hygiene
- Long term health promotion strategies
- IT issues both locally and nationally
- Service provision 24/7 and the availability of certain services such as x-ray during off peak times such as weekends and measures being undertaken to ensure tests taking place at such times.
- The current and future availability of single sex wards

Councillors congratulated the Trust on their “excellent” report and on the significant progress made in respect of a number of the areas discussed.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and a report on the Foundation Trust’s infection control policy be brought to a future meeting.

5. HEALTH INEQUALITIES STRATEGY

A report of the Public Health Partnership Board was submitted (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the new draft Health Inequalities Strategy to the Health Scrutiny Committee for formal consultation and comment before the Strategy was finalised and implemented. In addition, further information was circulated in respect of ‘Internal gaps in Premature Mortality’.

The Council’s Executive considered the Strategy at its meeting on 17 September 2007 and endorsed the Strategy without amendment, subject to consultation with this Scrutiny Committee.

Councillors made a number of comments with particular regard to the following:-

- The need to address the gap in the life expectancy information in respect of figures relating to mental wellbeing and subsequent effects of the increase in the growth of excess alcohol consumption within the borough.
- Geographical targeting and the need to focus resources on the right areas and to take account of hidden problems within more affluent groups within the borough.
- The promotion of partnership working with relevant outside agencies such as Sure Start and Children’s Centres and to ensure the necessary funding was available.
- The need to (i) promote indicative methods such as direct consultation with the public in order to promote the education process and (ii) to further encourage single agencies to ‘cross over’ and work together on certain issues.

With regard to a Councillor’s question on how to increase emotional and mental intelligence to reduce proneness to drug and alcohol abuse, it was reported that a ‘Healthy Schools’ Programme had been operating throughout the borough which helped to develop children’s intelligence.

In respect of the need to (i) consider long term underlying problems and (ii) find a reliable method of measuring progress, it was commented that a joint performance assessment framework had been developed and that reports would be submitted on a quarterly basis to the Health Partnership Board. The Committee recognised that to disaggregate drug, alcohol, and smoking issues from each other was unhelpful as all of these issues were inter-related.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

6. HEALTH SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE REPORTING

A representative of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy, Performance & Governance) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) updating the Committee on progress and detailing possible sources of cross sector health information. This was in response to the request made at the Committee's August meeting 'that alternative forms of reporting performance to the Health Scrutiny Committee, giving a wider community perspective', be considered and reported back to a future meeting.

In addition, the Committee was given an indication of the most relevant performance information available for health scrutiny purposes, with particular regard to well-being shared goals which included:-

- The Public Health Performance Framework developed for the Public Health Partnership Board (which would include monitoring information on the Health Inequalities Strategy Action Plan); and
- Extracted Health relevant Local Area Agreement information.

It was considered that this performance information would cover most issues from a local authority and health service perspective. Discussion also ensued on the prospect of having future themed reports. In this regard, it was suggested that the annual public health report could be considered in installments in the future.

Councillors recognised the need for an intelligence led approach and to produce qualitative material which would illustrate issues wider than measures and targets.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and that the performance information suggested be reported to the Committee's next meeting on 20 November 2007.

7. STOCKPORT PCT ANNUAL REPORT

The Chief Executive of Stockport Primary Care Trust submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) which was the Stockport Primary Care Trust's Annual Report for 2006/07. In addition, he gave a brief presentation which outlined, major successes for 2006/07, Key Performance Figures and a number of PCT Board issues.

Councillors asked a number of questions with specific regard to GPs and the PCT's role in improving performance. Improvements in waiting times for audiology services

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were recognised, but it was commented that there was still a need for these improvements to continue.

RESOLVED – That the report be approved and that Stockport PCT be requested to submit a further report to a future meeting detailing how the improvements in the audiology service had been achieved.

8. JOINT SCRUTINY UPDATE

The Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee had resolved that the Minutes of the AGMA Joint Health Scrutiny Committee and the Joint Mental Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Pennine Care NHS Trust be included as an agenda item on the Health and Adults & Communities Scrutiny Committees in future.

The Committee considered the Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Mental Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the Pennine Care NHS Trust on 28 August 2007.

In addition, an oral report of the meeting of the Joint Mental Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 2 October 2007 was given by Councillor Roy Driver.

RESOLVED – That (i) the Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Mental Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the Pennine Care NHS Trust on 28 August 2007 and (ii) the oral report of the meeting of the Joint Mental Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 2 October given by Councillor Roy Driver be noted and his briefing paper be circulated to the Committee.

9. AGENDA PLANNING

A representative of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy, Performance & Governance) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) setting out, forward plan items which fell within the remit of the Committee and progress with the resolutions made by the Committee at previous meetings during the current municipal year.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.