

HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting: 22 August 2006
At: 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor Brian Leck (Chair) in the Chair Roy Driver (Vice-Chair); Councillors Walter Brett, Susan Ingham, John Smith, June Somekh and Craig Wright.

Mike Lappin (Adviser)

1. MINUTES

The minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 6 June 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. CALL-IN

There were no items to consider.

4. RESPITE CARE

This item was placed on the agenda at the request of Councillor Walter Brett.

At the meeting of the Committee held on 6 June, 2006, a report was considered which discussed a review of respite care service currently provided at Cherry Tree Hospital. The report discussed the re-provision of respite care for the 34 patients using the Cherry Tree Service and the intention to provide a like-for-like service within the independent sector. The Committee commented upon methods of referral into the service, the consultation process and noted the report.

Following the meeting, the Committee received two letters (copies of which had been circulated) from both Councillor Derek Whitehead and from Stockport's Public Involvement Forums.

The letters raised questions in respect of the costs of providing the respite care service, the consultation process, and the future provision of respite care for those patients at Cherry Tree Hospital.

The Director of Clinical Services (Stockport PCT) attended the meeting and answered Member's questions in respect of:-

- The various points raised in Councillor Whitehead's letter with specific regard to the costs related to the running of Ward 5 and the need for the provision of intermediate care and a more equitable service;

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- The amount of consultation which had been carried out with patients and carers with specific regard to the re-provision of the respite care service;
- The identification of respite care places for each of the 34 patients identified in the report;
- The realisation of cost savings and the subsequent impact on existing staff;
- The inadequate consultations which had taken place;
- The need for a comprehensive breakdown of the various figures for the service when providing future reports of a similar nature.

It was reported that lessons had been learnt with particular regard to the need for consultation and an apology and explanation was given with regard to patient distress which had arisen as a result of the proposals. Further consultations with the public and carers had subsequently been undertaken by Stockport PCT which included an event for patients and carers, which had been attended by the Chief Executive (Stockport PCT) and a further event planned for 18 September, 2006.

Measures were being put into place to support the service and the allocation of beds was currently under review. In addition, it was reported that the service would close at Cherry Tree and that patients would be notified in due course.

RESOLVED – That the current position be noted.

5. REVIEW OF HOSPITAL BASED NON ACUTE SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE

At the meeting of the Committee held on 6 June, 2006, the Committee received a report on a proposed new model of service for hospital based non-acute services for older people, which included rehab services, intermediate care services and continuing care services.

The Director of Clinical Services (Stockport PCT) gave an oral update on the current position. She commented on the provision of a vision for a future service model and consideration on how this could be delivered. Work had been undertaken in respect of a Points Prevalence Study of acute hospital services and intermediate care. The data was currently being analysed in order to inform the future decision on how the new 'pathways' were to be redesigned. In addition, it was reported that Stockport PCT wanted to ensure that the service model would be approved by its partner organisations.

In addition, the Committee was informed that the Government were in the process of releasing funding for the development of Community Hospitals and Stockport PCT was monitoring the situation.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

**6. NHS FRAMEWORK FOR NHS CONTINUING HEALTH CARE –
CONSULTATION DOCUMENT AND NHS – FUNDED NURSING CARE IN
ENGLAND**

The Director of Clinical Services (Stockport PCT) gave a presentation on the provisions of the national consultation document on the NHS framework for NHS continuing care which was in the process of being submitted to key statutory and voluntary organisations and the public in Stockport.

The Committee asked a number of questions in respect of:

- The procedure in respect of any objections received;
- Plans to address any future disagreement between the NHS and the Local Authority;
- A formal process for the screening of patients and whether or not the new process contradicted the Single Assessment Process; and
- The need for NHS funding care.

In response to the screening issue raised, the Director commented that the screening process should be 'light touch' and would compliment assessment as part of routine procedure.

In addition, in response to the Committee's concerns it was reported that, where possible, families, carers and patients would be supported in order to make informed decisions in respect of the care they receive and that they would be kept informed as much as possible.

RESOLVED – (1) That the presentation be noted.

(2) That the Committee be requested to submit their comments and observations to the Scrutiny Officer and that the Chair and Vice-Chair be requested to compile a response to the consultation based on a compilation of the submissions from the Committee.

**7. HEALTH REFORM IN ENGLAND: UPDATE AND COMMISSIONING
FRAMEWORK**

(Note: The Chair was of the opinion that this item, although not included on the agenda, should be considered as a matter of urgency in accordance with Section 100 (B) (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the Stockport PCT's deadline with regard to the submission of the Committee's comments).

The Director of Finance (Stockport PCT) submitted a report and gave a presentation on the provisions of a consultation document on a National Framework, which Stockport PCT were circulating locally in order to help compile a comprehensive response to the consultation by 6 October, 2006.

Councillors asked a number of questions in respect of:

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- The 'choose and book' system;
- The importance of the continued reduction in waiting times;
- The need for discerning decisions in respect of prioritising treatment for patients; and
- The need for patients to be given comprehensive information in order to make educated decisions in respect of options for future treatment.

The Committee expressed concern that not all patients had the same ability or access to information in order to make an informed choice.

RESOLVED – (1) That the report be noted and that the presentation slides be circulated to the Committee for information.

(2) That the Committee be requested to submit their comments and observations to the Scrutiny Officer and that the Chair and Vice-Chair be requested to compile a response to the consultation based on a compilation of the submissions from the Committee.

8. NEW TREATMENT FOR STROKES

At its meeting on 1 August 2006 Cheadle Area Committee discussed 'New Treatment for Strokes' at the request of Councillor Derek Whitehead. Councillor Whitehead requested that the Area Committee consider holding an Open Forum with the theme "new treatment for strokes". Members recognised the benefit to be obtained by raising public interest in the issue of treatment for strokes but considered that the issue would benefit from a borough wide approach.

The Area Committee resolved that the Health Scrutiny Committee be requested to consider the health care and social well-being issues surrounding new treatment for strokes and the potential savings in the health care budget as a result of such measures. In addition, to consider the ways in which the new forms of treatment might be brought to the attention of the wider Stockport community.

RESOLVED – That the issues relating to new treatment for strokes be considered at a future meeting of the Committee in February, 2006.

9. THE FUTURE ROLE OF ADVISERS IN THE HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At its meeting on 12 June 2006 the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee considered a report discussing the future role of expert advisors. It was suggested that, given the introduction of a revised scrutiny committee structure this municipal year, it is an opportune time to review existing arrangements for advisers in scrutiny and agree a future role.

The Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee agreed:

“(1) That advisers be invited to attend meetings of that Scrutiny Committee and speak only on matters relating to their area of interest/expertise when relevant agenda items are scheduled or when they can make a significant contribution to a relevant service area review.

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(2) That the decision to invite an adviser be delegated to the Chair of that Scrutiny Committee, in consultation with the Scrutiny Officer on the basis of relevant topics featuring in the Scrutiny Committee's work and agenda programmes."

At its meeting on 19th June 2006, Minute No. 6, Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee resolved that Scrutiny Committees be recommended to adopt the above approach with regard to the role of advisers.

RESOLVED – That the approach taken by the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee in respect of the role of advisers be adopted.

10. AGENDA PLANNING

The Chief Executive (Scrutiny) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) setting out planned agenda items for the Committee's next three meetings, forward plan items which fell within the remit of the Committee and progress with the resolutions made by Committee at previous meetings during the current municipal year.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 7.35 pm.