

PRESENT: Councillors Keith Butcher, Andrew Dawson, Louise Gittins, Eveleigh Moore Dutton, Charles Fifield, Gill Boston, Paul Edwards, Brian Silvester, Bridson, Clements, Glasman and Salter

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Paul Dolan, Gordon Baxendale, Carolyn Andrew, Jacque Weatherill, Cherry Povall and Tony Smith

Officers in attendance: Ros Francke – CWP Director of Finance NHS Foundation Trust
Andy Styring – Director of Operations, CWP NHS Foundation Trust
David Jones – Scrutiny Team
Deborah Ridgeley – Democratic Services Officer

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor Brian Silvester nominated Councillor Andrew Dawson as Chairman of the Committee, seconded by Councillor Eveleigh Moore Dutton. There were no other nominations.

DECIDED: That

Councillor Andrew Dawson be appointed Chairman of the Cheshire and Wirral Council's Joint Scrutiny Committee for the ensuing 2011/2012 Municipal year.

Councillor Andrew Dawson in the Chair

2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Councillor John Salter nominated Councillor Patricia Glasman as Vice-Chairman and was seconded by Councillor Ann Bridson.

DECIDED: That

Councillor Patricia Glasman be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Cheshire and Wirral Council's Joint Scrutiny Committee for the ensuing 2011-2012 Municipal Year.

3 NOTIFICATION OF SPOKESPERSON

DECIDED: That

Councillor Brian Silvester was appointed as Spokesperson from Cheshire East Council for the ensuing 2011 – 2012 Municipal Year.

4 APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY

Members considered the appointment of a Secretary to the Joint Committee.

DECIDED: That

Cheshire West and Chester Council provide the Secretariat for the Cheshire and Wirral Council's Joint Scrutiny Committee for the ensuing 2011 – 2012 Municipal Year.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Members did not declare any personal or prejudicial interests.

6 MINUTES

Members referred to Minute number 81, in relation to the presentation about the Dementia Pathway and requested clarity as to the percentages quoted.

DECIDED: That

subject to the above information being circulated, the minutes of the meeting of the Cheshire and Wirral Council's Joint Health Scrutiny Committee held on 4 April 2011 be agreed as a correct record.

7 CHESHIRE AND WIRRAL COUNCILS JSC - PROTOCOL AND PROCEDURAL RULES

The Protocol for the Joint Scrutiny Committee had been provided for Members and consideration as to possible changes was requested. Members stated that until more experience of the work of the Committee had been gained, it was perhaps premature to consider changes.

The Committee considered the definitions contained in the protocol and it was suggested that the wording in paragraph 7.1 of the report was the most accurate:-

“Overview and scrutiny powers cover any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services. Health services are as defined in the NHS Act 1977 and cover health promotion, prevention of ill health and treatment”.

The number of meetings was also discussed, and although the scheduled meetings had been previously agreed at 4, flexibility to arrange further meetings and for task and finish groups to meet was deemed to be necessary.

DECIDED: That

the Procedure Rules appended to the agenda be noted, and submitted for further consideration at a future meeting of the Joint Committee.

8 CO-OPTION

Members considered the Joint Committee's Procedural Rules, which provided that it “may choose to co-opt other appropriate individuals in a non-voting capacity, to the Committee or for the duration of a particular review or Scrutiny”.

Members were reminded that at the last meeting of the Joint Scrutiny Committee, Mr Phil Hough had been in attendance as a co-opted member. Mr Hough was asked if he wished to continue as the co-optee, which he confirmed. He brings

over 20 years experience as a carer of people with mental health issues and was a representative on local and national organisations.

DECIDED: That

Mr Phil Hough be appointed as a co-opted member on the Cheshire and Wirral Council's Joint Scrutiny Committee.

9 INTRODUCTION TO THE TRUST

The Joint Committee considered a report which set out a brief introduction to the services currently provided by the Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CWP). The services provided included inpatient and community mental health services for children, adults and older people as well as learning disability services and drug and alcohol services across Cheshire and Wirral.

The Chairman reminded Members that the boundaries of the Partnership were not co-terminus with the Council boundaries, and that the population figures also differed between the three local authorities.

The CWP was not the only service provider for residents with mental health issues, and there were many other organisations with an impact on service provision. The directory attached to the report set out which services were currently provided in each local authority area, and Members noticed there were a few gaps where services were not provided across all three authorities.

To enable Members to have a better understanding of all the elements of the CWP's work and the role of the Scrutiny Committee a programme of training was suggested. (Training discussed as a separate item on the agenda)

DECIDED: That

the introduction to the Trust be noted and an appropriate training programme be developed.

10 AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IDENTIFIED IN THE QUALITY ACCOUNTS 2010/11

Members considered the Areas for Improvement Identified in the Cheshire and Wirral Partnership's Quality Accounts 2010/2011. The summary document had been requested following the last meeting of the Joint Committee, where a detailed report had been submitted but described as difficult to interpret.

The document listed 16 areas for improvement, and each area contained a summary covering detailed information for each ward. The detailed information was available should Members require it.

Members agreed to also look at those services that performed well. This would aid Members to compare them with other service providers. It was confirmed that regular benchmarking on a national and regional level occurred, and this information could also be made available to the Joint Committee.

Members discussed the areas which could be the subject of task and finish groups, minute number 12/2011 refers.

DECIDED: That

the Areas for Improvement be noted.

11 TRAINING

The Chairman referred to the membership of the Joint Committee, and of the number of new Members. Because of this, it was considered necessary to hold a number of training and awareness sessions to increase Members' knowledge of the work of the Cheshire and Wirral Partnership (CWP) before undertaking scrutiny projects.

Ros Francke, confirmed that the CWP would offer any training or support Members felt they required to undertake their role on the Joint Committee. It was understood that the geographical area covered by the Joint Committee was extensive and that it would be a steep learning curve given the number of scheduled meetings. A package of training and awareness sessions could be arranged, and Members were encouraged to reply to emails about training as soon as possible, providing information about their availability for full or half day sessions.

Members were also informed about a number of workshops currently run by the CWP on various topics, which could be opened up to the Joint Committee. These workshops were also attended by representatives of Cheshire Police, Cheshire Fire Authority and housing associations.

Once all emails had been received by Members of the Joint Committee, a training programme would be drawn up by the Chairman in conjunction with the Secretariat and Ros Francke.

DECIDED: That

a training programme be developed once Members availability was known, and circulated to the Joint Committee as soon as possible.

12 WORK PLAN

Members considered a Work Plan for the Municipal Year 2011 – 2012. The Chairman referred to emails concerning Community Treatment Orders which had been forwarded to a number of Members and suggested that the process could be a likely topic for scrutiny to look at.

The Chairman suggested that three task and finish groups be set up to look at certain subject and report back to the Joint Committee. Members discussed the topics listed in the Areas For Improvement Identified in CWP Quality Accounts 2010/2011 (minute 10/2011 refers). Following a detailed discussion, Members volunteered to start the task and finish groups, with the aim of reporting back to the Joint Committee at the October meeting initially, and make recommendations to the meeting in January 2012.

DECIDED: That

the following task and finish groups be established:-

Improving Physical Health Care for Trust Service Users: to comprise of Councillors Gill Bidston; Ann Bridson; Wendy Clements; Eveleigh Moore Dutton and Paul Edwards.

Processes Involved in Community Treatment Orders: to comprise of Councillors Andrew Dawson; Patricia Glasman; Eveleigh Moore Dutton and Charles Fifield.

Alcohol Acquired Brain Injury: to comprise of Councillors John Salter; Patricia Glasman; Louise Gittins and Keith Butcher.

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

The Chairman agreed to consider one item of urgent business.

Care Home Provision for Vulnerable People

Councillor Gill Bidston referred to the recent publicity about Winterburn View in Bristol. Officers reassured Members that after the television programme was first shown, assessments of the care provision were undertaken to ensure that the poor practices highlighted were not repeated in any establishments within the Cheshire and Wirral areas. A rolling programme of assessments was undertaken.

The whistle-blowing policies of organisations was also referred to, and it was suggested that this area could also be the subject of scrutiny in the future to ensure that the policy was adopted and employees protected appropriately.

The Chairman agreed to consider the item as urgent business on the grounds that reassurance of service provision was required for all Members before the next meeting of the Joint Committee.

Chairman

Date