

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

held on Thursday, 8th September, 2016 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3,
Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor J Saunders (Chairman)
Councillor S Pochin (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors D Bailey, Rhoda Bailey, B Dooley, L Jeuda, G Merry and A Moran

Apologies

Councillors (none)

10 ALSO PRESENT

Councillor Paul Bates - Communities
Councillor Stewart Gardiner – Deputy Cabinet Member
Councillor Gordon Baxendale – Visiting member
Dr Tania Stanway – Cheshire and Wirral partnership
Julia Cottier – Cheshire and Wirral partnership
Sue Redmond – Interim Director of Adult Social Care
Jacki Wilkes – Eastern Cheshire CCG
Mike Moore - NWAS

11 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 July be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

13 DECLARATION OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of the existence of a party whip.

14 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public present who wished to speak.

15 AMBULANCE SERVICES REVIEW

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer relating to responses received in connection with a review of North West Ambulance Services (NWAS) carried out on 19 February 2016 and 24 March 2016.

On 19 February 2016, the Committee had undertaken a full day spotlight review of NWAS. The committee interviewed a variety of stakeholders about how their organisation contributed towards ambulance services, what they considered were the future challenges for services and what initiatives might contribute towards making improvements to performance and provide better outcomes for patients in Cheshire East.

The meeting held on 19 February 2016 was used as a 'fact finding' day and adjourned for a further half day session on 24 March 2016, when the Committee received additional information and discussed its conclusions and recommendations. The committee had published its findings, conclusions and recommendations in a formal report on 29 April 2016. Participants in the process had been invited to respond to the recommendations by Friday 19 August 2016.

The committee considered responses from:

- Department of Health;
- NWAS;
- Interim Director of Adult Social Care and Independent Living;
- Healthwatch;
- Eastern Cheshire and South Cheshire CCGs
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On behalf of NWAS, Mike Moore referred to a national pilot scheme called 'Dispatch on Disposition' which was a new way for ambulance services to respond to 999 calls. The new way of dispatching had a number of objectives including:

- Reduction in the number of inappropriate ambulance responses by increasing the percentage of patients treated by telephone advice;
- Improved accuracy of triage of ambulance incidents, ensuring the most appropriate and timely response to meet the patients clinical needs;
- Improved response to the most critical, life-threatening ambulance incidents (Red 1 incidents)
- Improvements in performance against the ambulance response time targets.

The changes to the dispatch process did not apply to incidents identified as immediately life-threatening (Red 1 incidents), where an ambulance would continue to be dispatched immediately. The process related to non-Red 1 incidents, whereby patients would be triaged over the telephone before dispatching an ambulance. The additional time spent on the telephone provided an opportunity to identify the most appropriate response which in some cases may not be an ambulance.

It was expected that from October 2016, the 'Dispatch on Disposition' system could be used in the North West.

In response to a question about how the inequity between Rural and Urban areas could be addressed over a large area like the North West region, Mike reminded the committee that although all CCGs across the region commissioned Ambulance Services, Blackpool CCG took the lead on behalf of all North West CCGs.

As of 1 September 2016, System Delivery Groups had been replaced by A&E Delivery boards whose role would be to influence quality initiatives. The main priority for the delivery boards had been to achieve a reduction in conveyance by ambulance and an improvement

in performance through, for example, better triage arrangements on a Cheshire/ Wirral footprint.

In response to a question about whether authority would be given to paramedics to prescribe drugs in future as had occurred in some of the trial areas, Tracy Parker – Priest informed the Committee that the statistical analysis of the pilot areas had not been evaluated yet and that CCGs would wish to see that evaluation before a decision was taken.

Members also raised the need for better co-ordination between mental health commissioners and NWS in view of the proposals later on in the agenda to reduce the number of locally available beds for adult mental care

Mike also explained the desire to recruit more first responders. However recruitment was quite a lengthy process taking up to three months which included DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the Communities and Health Portfolio holder be requested to take up directly with Blackpool CCG, this committee's concerns about the inequity in the current arrangements between urban and rural areas.
- (b) That the Communities and Health Portfolio holder be also requested to undertake a publicity drive to encourage more first responders to volunteer through the press, partnership organisations, Cheshire Association of Local Councils (CHALC);
- (c) That details of the evaluation of the trial which has authorised paramedics to prescribe drugs in some other local authority areas be brought to this committee when available;
- (d) That CWP be requested to liaise with NWS on the proposed mental health redesign proposals;

16 REDESIGNING ADULT AND OLDER PEOPLES MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Councillor Gordon Baxendale attended the meeting and addressed the committee in respect of this matter.

Julia Cottier, Cheshire and Wirral Partnership CWP Service Director for Central and Eastern Cheshire and Dr Tania Stanway, CWP Clinical Director and Consultant Psychiatrist attended the meeting and presented a report setting out proposals to re-design Adult and Older Peoples Mental Health Services in Cheshire East.

The report gave details of two delivery options which were being proposed to go forward to a formal consultation process. The two options involved:

Option 1 - Sustain inpatient care at current levels through a reduction in community mental health services

Option 2 - Enhance community mental health services so that more people can receive care closer to home and improve quality of inpatient provision by providing inpatient care from other existing purpose built sites.

CWP's preferred option was option 2. CWP suggested that a review of how these services could be provided in future had indicated that they could be provided in this way if further targeted investment was made in community services, and the implementation of new ways of working which had seen effective reductions in admissions and length of stay elsewhere in the Trust.

In response to questions about the commencement of the formal consultation period on the proposal and whether authorities at Cheshire West and Chester and Wirral would also be involved in the consultation process, the committee expressed a view that further information would be required to enable the committee to determine this matter.

RESOLVED

- (a) That consideration of this matter be deferred to the 6 October meeting;
- (b) That in the meantime, the Scrutiny manager be requested to ascertain from colleagues in Cheshire West and Chester and Wirral whether the matter is likely to be treated as a Substantial Variation or Development by the respective Health Scrutiny Committees in those Councils;
- (c) That CWP be requested to report back to the 6 October meeting with additional details of the number of patients likely to be affected by the proposals, current waiting times, and the impact on the service of the potential reduction in available beds.

17 CAMHS AND THE PROCUREMENT AROUND PRIMARY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

RESOLVED – That consideration of this matter be deferred.

18 SCRUTINY PROTOCOL

The Committee considered a revised Overview and Scrutiny Protocol which had been amended to accurately reflect the name of this committee and to take account of consequential minor amendments resulting from the Health and Adult Social Care Act 2012.

RESOLVED – That the revised protocol be approved.

19 WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee reviewed its work programme.

RESOLVED – That the work programme be approved:

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 12.57 pm

Councillor J Saunders (Chairman)