

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

CABINET

Date of meeting: 14 July, 2009

Report of: John Weeks, Strategic Director - People

Title: Jointness Between the Council and the Primary Care Trust

1.0 Purpose of Report.

- 1.1 This paper contains information about work which has been done to promote greater jointness between Cheshire East Council and Central and Eastern Cheshire Primary Care Trust (PCT).
- 1.2 It makes recommendations about the progress of a programme of further work to take that agenda forward.

2.0 Recommendations.

The Members of the Cabinet are recommended to decide to:-

- 2.1 Agree that the Council should seek to achieve greater jointness between itself and Central and Eastern Cheshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) and other players within the local NHS, where such jointness seems likely to be in the best interests of Cheshire East people.
- 2.2 Authorise the Strategic Director (People) to negotiate with relevant NHS partners about the agenda of Jointness which is set out in Appendix One of this report.
- 2.3 Require the Strategic Director (People) to report to the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee on the progress of those negotiations, and to bring before the Cabinet any matters requiring significant decisions.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations.

- 3.1 The Council, from its very inception, expressed its commitment to the development of a "virtual public sector" in Cheshire East. The achievement of greater jointness between the Council and its NHS partners would be an important step along the path towards realising that commitment.
- 3.2 Without exception, every policy document issued by central government in recent years has called for much closer working between Local Authorities and the NHS. Greater jointness in Cheshire East would contribute to the implementation of that policy requirement.

4.0 Wards Affected.

- 4.1 The ideas set out in Appendix One, if implemented, would be relevant to the whole of Cheshire East.

5.0 Local Ward Members.

- 5.1 The potential agenda of jointness is relevant to all Members of the Council.

6.0 Policy Implications.

- 6.1 At every stage, as Cabinet Members consider specific recommendations, they will need to assess what impact the implementation of those recommendations is likely to have within Cheshire East upon:-

- Improving the health of the population
- Reducing health inequalities

- 6.2 Some of the options outlined could have significant implications in terms of climate change. If, for example, it was decided that there should be substantial integration of workforces which are currently separate, it is possible that resulting efficiencies might reduce the extent of car travel undertaken, with consequent benefits in terms of reductions in the consumption of finite fuels and in CO₂ emissions.

7.0 Financial Implications for Transitional Costs.

- 7.1 There are not likely to be any implications for Transitional Costs.

8.0 Financial Implications for 2009/10 and Beyond.

- 8.1 The longer-term financial implications will vary according to the specific recommendations brought forward.
- 8.2 In view of the bleak outlook for the Comprehensive Spending Review settlement of 2011, it is likely that Cabinet Members will want to consider very carefully the Business Cases advanced in support of specific recommendations, to assess whether they will deliver the sorts of efficiency gains which will be needed.

9.0 Legal Implications

- 9.1 A number of the potential options would require formal contracts to be entered into and in those cases, of course, it will be necessary to ensure that the interests of the Council are fully protected.

10.0 Risk Management.

- 10.1 Particular Risk Assessments will need to be carried out for each initiative, as it is proposed.

11.0 Background and Options

- 11.1 In the Autumn of 2008 discussions about jointness took place between the Leader of the Council, Councillor Wesley Fitzgerald, and the Chair of the PCT Board, Professor Pauline Ong.
- 11.2 One outcome of those discussions was agreement on the value of a joint meeting between the PCT Board and the Cabinet.
- 11.3 The first such meeting took place at Crewe Hall on 13th October, 2008. At that meeting presentations were made by the Council's Chief Executive, Erika Wenzel, and by the Chief Executive of the PCT, Mike Pyrah. Some productive discussion took place in small groups between Board and Cabinet members.
- 11.4 At the October, 2008 joint meeting a large measure of agreement was reached about the desirability of achieving greater jointness between the two organisations.
- 11.5 Subsequently, as part of a process of contact and trust building, the Chief Executive of the Council had meetings with a variety of players within the local NHS community:-
 - Peter Cubbon, the Chief Executive of the Cheshire and Wirral Partnership Trust |(a provider of NHS Mental Health and Learning Disability Services).
 - Phil Morley and John Moran, the Chief Executive and Board Chairman at Leighton Hospital, Crewe.
 - Cathy Cowell, Board Chair at Macclesfield Hospital.
- 11.6 Councillor Fitzgerald and Professor Ong have continued to meet at intervals. They jointly commissioned the PCT Chief Executive and the Strategic Director (People) to:-
 - 11.6.1 Map out the potential dimensions of jointness.
 - 11.6.2 Make proposals about actions to make progress along those dimensions.
- 11.7 A second joint meeting of the PCT Board and the Cabinet took place at Wychwood Park on 27th April, 2009. At that joint meeting the PCT Chief Executive and the Strategic Director (People) presented a joint paper, "Dimensions of Jointness". A copy of that paper is in Appendix One.
- 11.8 The joint paper was warmly welcomed by the PCT Board and the Cabinet. A number of specific actions were commissioned immediately in response to its proposals:-
 - 11.8.1 The PCT Chief Executive and the Strategic Director (People) were asked to ensure that work was done to develop a joint approach to

accommodation. Richard Mirson of the PCT and Arthur Pritchard of the Council have been commissioned to do that, starting with a focus upon Congleton.

- 11.8.2 Draft Terms of Reference for a Health and Wellbeing Thematic Partnership are now out and being consulted upon.
- 11.8.3 At the Cabinet Briefing meeting on 2nd June, 2009 John Barrett, the Council's ICT Manager, reported on the positive progress being Made in negotiations with Tracey Harding, the PCT's Lead Manager on ICT.
- 11.9 On the other hand, the proposal for the development of a Joint Leadership Academy did not find favour.
- 11.10 The joint meeting agreed that the PCT Chief Executive should formally present The joint paper to his Board and that the Strategic Director (People) should Present it to the Cabinet of the Council

12.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues.

- 12.1 The jointness agenda should be evaluated in terms of the benefits which it has the potential to deliver for local people, but it is also clear that the financial context which can be anticipated for Public Sector services will inevitably focus even sharper attention upon the challenge of taking costs out of the whole system.
- 12.2 That is likely to become an increasing preoccupation of the Council throughout its first Term.

13.0 Access to Information.

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