

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29 July 2009

Date of Meeting:

Report of:

Subject/Title:

Borough Solicitor

Redesign of beds outside hospitals – Knutsford and
Congleton

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the Central and Eastern Cheshire Primary Care Trust's (PCT) project to redesign beds outside hospitals in relation to Knutsford and Congleton and consider how this should be progressed.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee establish a Task/Finish Panel to exercise the health scrutiny function in relation to the Primary Care Trust Redesign of Beds outside Hospitals – Knutsford and Congleton.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 A Task/Finish Panel will enable a small group of Members to give detailed consideration to the proposals and undertake the Council's health scrutiny role.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 Mainly Knutsford, Congleton Rural, Congleton Town East, Congleton Town West and Bucklow, there may be other Wards depending on where the health services affected draw their patients from

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 Councillors Wilkinson, Hunter, Ranfield, Gilbert, Kolker, Wray, Brown, Mason, Thwaite, Baxendale, Domleo, Topping, Knowles, Macrae and Walton.

6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change - Health

- 6.1 Not known at this stage.

7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

7.1 None identified at the moment.

8.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

8.1 Not known at this stage.

9.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk Management

10.1 There are no identifiable risks.

11.0 Background and Options

11.1 In May 2007, Cheshire County Council established a Task/Finish Panel to undertake the health scrutiny role in relation to the Central and Eastern Cheshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) Community Healthcare Project. The role of Health Scrutiny is to comment on:

- Whether as a statutory body, it has been properly consulted;
- Whether, in developing proposals for service changes, the consulting body has taken into account the public interest through appropriate patient and public involvement and consultation;
- Whether the proposals are in the interests of the local health service.

11.2 The terms of reference of the Task/Finish Panel were:

“To exercise the Health Scrutiny function in relation to the Knutsford Project, and thereafter the Congleton and Northwich Projects which may flow from the Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT’s overall strategy on the development of Community Services”.

11.3 The membership of the Task/Finish Panel was;

- Councillor Fletcher (Chairman)
- Councillor Davies
- Councillor Flude
- Councillor Barber
- Councillor Baxendale
- Councillor Harris
- Mr Clemens.

11.4 The Panel met on three occasions with the last meeting taking place on 6 January when Members were updated on progress with appointing a Developer for both the Knutsford and Congleton projects, site options and community engagement.

11.5 At the meeting of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee on 23 February 2009, Members received a presentation from Fiona Field, Director of Governance and Strategic Planning and Sue Noyce, Community Healthcare Re-design Project Lead, Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT on the key aspects of the redesign project:

- The development of modern primary care and community based hospital facilities;
- The delivery of care closer to home through the provision of flexible, integrated clinical services;
- Increased access to a range of intermediate tier services in patients' own homes and in purpose built community bed facilities;
- Increased access to diagnostic and outpatient facilities in the community;
- The provision of community based mental health teams to support service users in their homes.

11.6 The benefits included better integration of GP services with community nursing and secondary care, provision of modern facilities, opportunities to develop new integrated services and the provision of home and community bed-based services that would be of particular benefit to older people. The Department of Health had emphasised the importance of care being provided closer to people's own homes or in their homes.

11.7 The PCT's redesign project is continuing and it is proposed that a Task/Finish Panel be reconstituted to exercise the health scrutiny function in relation to the Primary Care Trust's proposals in relation to Knutsford and Congleton.

12.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues

12.1 The recommendation will enable the Council to undertake its health scrutiny role.

13.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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