

# **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the **Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee**  
held on Wednesday, 29th July, 2009 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields,  
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

## **PRESENT**

Councillor A Richardson (Chairman)

Councillors C Andrew, S Bentley, C Beard, D Flude, W Livesley, A Moran,  
C Tomlinson and J Wray

## **Apologies**

Councillors G Baxendale, S Furlong, O Hunter, S Jones and A Martin

## **1 ALSO PRESENT**

Councillor R Domleo, Portfolio Holder for Health and Well-being and Councillor A Thwaite (substitute).

## **2 OFFICERS PRESENT**

P Lloyd, Head of Services for Adults,  
M Flynn, Legal and Democratic Services,  
D French, Legal and Democratic Services,  
F Field, Director of Governance and Strategic Planning, Central and Eastern  
Cheshire Primary Care Trust

## **3 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS/PARTY WHIP**

There were no declarations made.

## **4 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION**

There were no Members of the Public present who wished to address the meeting.

## **5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20 May be approved as a correct record.

## **6 THE CHESHIRE AND WIRRAL COUNCILS' JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 7 MAY 2009**

The Committee was informed that the Joint Scrutiny Committee set up by Cheshire East Council, Cheshire West and Chester Council and Wirral

Metropolitan Borough Council had held its first meeting on 7 May and the minutes of the meeting were submitted for information.

The Committee's role was to scrutinise the work of the Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Trust – the provider of mental health, learning disability and drug and alcohol services across Cheshire and Wirral. The Committee had also received a detailed briefing session on 18 June followed by a visit to one of the Trust's facilities at Bowmere Hospital, Chester. The next meeting of the Joint Scrutiny Committee had been arranged for 8 October.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Joint Scrutiny Committee held on 7 May be received.

## **7 CENTRAL AND EASTERN CHESHIRE PRIMARY CARE TRUST COMMISSIONING STRATEGIC PLAN 2009-2014**

Fiona Field, Director of Governance and Strategic Planning at Central and Eastern Cheshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) briefed the Committee on the PCT's Commissioning Strategic Plan 2009 – 2014. She explained that it was a requirement of the Department of Health that each PCT produce such a plan and that the version submitted to the Committee was a revised version of the plan originally written in October 2008; it was to be revised again in the near future.

The Plan outlined the strategic ambition of the PCT which was "to work with others to achieve sustainable improvements in health and well-being of the population and to reduce inequalities of health". There were eight local outcomes which related to areas where the PCT was struggling to achieve against targets or where performance was lower than expected which related to the following areas:

- Breastfeeding;
- Dignity and Respect for All;
- Transforming Urgent Care Services;
- Alcohol Harm Reduction;
- Cancer mortality;
- Stroke;
- Mental Health;
- Chronic Heart Disease.

There were also two National Outcomes which applied to every PCT relating to reducing health inequalities and improving life expectancy. The Committee was advised that across Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT's patch there was a difference in life expectancy of 13 years.

During discussion of the item the following issues were raised:

- Teenage Pregnancy – it was noted that the National Support Team had visited Cheshire East and a report on findings would be submitted to the Council shortly;
- Dementia services – a programme had been devised to ensure early diagnosis and improved quality of care and it was important to focus on services not buildings;

- The focus on Dignity and Respect for All was welcomed and that simple measures could make a difference such as calling older people by their title and surname rather than by their first name;
- The use of mystery shoppers and patient groups was a useful way of seeking views on services.

RESOLVED: That the Commissioning Strategic Plan 2009 – 2014 be received and the outcomes supported.

## **8 CARE AND SUPPORT GREEN PAPER**

The Committee received a briefing produced by the Local Government Association on the Government's Green Paper on the Care and Support of Disabled and Older People.

The Paper proposed the establishment of a National Care Service and sought views on a number of options for funding care and support in future, namely whether funding should be organised nationally or whether there should continue to be a partnership between central government and local government.

A full report on the Green Paper would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee and the Committee would be invited to submit comments to the Cabinet who would be responding to the Green Paper on behalf of the Council.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

## **9 CENTRAL AND EASTERN CHESHIRE PRIMARY CARE TRUST HEALTHCARE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN 2009/10**

Fiona Field, Director of Governance and Strategic Planning, at the Central and Eastern Cheshire Primary Care Trust, briefed the Committee on the PCT Healthcare Sustainability Plan 2009/10. She explained that the PCT had a statutory responsibility to balance its budget and, although the PCT had inherited a deficit when it first came into being, it had maintained a balanced budget ever since.

The PCT was now facing financial difficulties due mainly to the significant increases in levels of activity in secondary health care and also the increased amount of NHS Continuing Care provided. The PCT's current financial situation was not due to the national credit crisis.

The PCT had developed the Sustainability Plan with the intention that it would not be a "quick fix" but a sustained focus on finance, with a series of principles adopted in setting the 2009/10 budget:

- The budget was set at a balanced position with a small surplus as required by the NHS;
- All contracts with key providers had been agreed and signed off and activity agreed at the outturn (ie end of last year's position);
- No further growth in activity above the 2008/09 level had been assumed;;
- The full estimated impact of Payment by Results had been included;
- Inflation had been added to all contracts;
- Funding for new developments had been kept to a minimum and only included the Elmhurst intermediate care facility, national specified costs

to Specialised Services and the costs of the Leighton Hospital Urgent Care Centre;

- A reduction in some budgets including prescribing and PCT infrastructure costs.

The Plan set out a number of specific cost reductions that the PCT was confident would ensure services could be delivered and improved within allocated resources. However, there was a Contingency Plan setting out changes that could be implemented if further budget savings were required. A number of the proposed changes would require a notice period and formal consultation.

During discussion of the item the following issues were raised:

- The reduction of high cost out of area placements was welcomed;
- The reduction in contract cleaning hours related to the PCT's offices only;
- Reduction in prescriptions would be achieved by the introduction of an IT system whereby GP's attention would be drawn to cheaper alternative drugs that had the same outcomes;
- The proposed new premises at Scholar Green would not progress at the moment;
- The pilot Joint Equipment Retail service with the Local Authority was to be evaluated to assess its effectiveness in view of the increased costs of the service.

RESOLVED: That the PCT Sustainability Plan be noted.

## **10 REDESIGN OF BEDS OUTSIDE HOSPITALS - KNUTSFORD AND CONGLETON**

The Committee considered a report on the PCT's proposals relating to redesigning services in Knutsford and Congleton. The County Council had established a Task/Finish Panel to look into the proposals and it was recommended that a Panel be re-established to continue considering the redesign.

The Committee was advised that Developers had been appointed for both the Knutsford and Congleton projects but sites had not been agreed. However, the continuation of the projects was dependent on the PCT financial situation as the Sustainability Plan had identified the suspension of this project as part of its contingency proposals.

RESOLVED: That a Task/Finish Panel be established to consider the proposals relating to the redesign of services in Knutsford and Congleton based on 6 Members on a 4:1:1 basis.

## **11 PANDEMIC FLU**

The Committee received an update on the current position relating to the flu pandemic.

Three antiviral collection centres had now been identified or set up in Cheshire East – Universal House, Middlewich (the PCT headquarters), Crewe (either the

Oaklea Centre or Meredith Centre) and the Senior Citizens' Centre, Macclesfield. The PCT had worked with the Council regarding identifying suitable sites as it was not possible to use hospital or primary care facilities due to the increased risks of spreading infection. All users of the Senior Citizens Centre had been consulted and alternative venues found for them to use. There were also a number of Community Pharmacies issuing antiviral medicine.

It was not possible to confirm actual cases of Swine Flu as patients were no longer swabbed, the numbers of people issued with antiviral medicine at the centres in Middlewich and Macclesfield together with Community Pharmacies totalled 3362 at 28 July 2009.

A National Flu Helpline had been set up on 23 July where people who suspected they had swine flu could be taken through their symptoms, issued with a reference number which a "flu friend" could then take to a collection centre to collect medicine on their behalf.

A Swine Flu vaccine was being developed in preparation for a mass vaccination programme to start in Autumn, with high risk groups targeted initially. The vaccine would be given in two parts, 3 weeks apart. The ordinary winter flu vaccine programme would continue as usual.

RESOLVED: That the update on Pandemic Flu be received and noted.

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 12.15 pm

Councillor A Richardson (Chairman)