

HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 13 JUNE 2012

PRESENT:- Councillors Claire Ellis (Chair), Ray Ballman (Vice-Chair), Steve Allsopp, Alan Bishop, Wayne Crabbe, Brian Ford, John Haines, Richard Hurley, Derique Montaut, Maureen Penny, Ann Richards, Rochelle Russell and Julie Wright.

Councillor Keith Williams, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Strategic Transport, Jill Crook (NHS Gloucestershire and Swindon), Michael Barnes (NHS Swindon), Sue Wald (Swindon Borough Council), Jose Ortega (Swindon Borough Council), Nerissa Vaughan (GWH NHS Foundation Trust), Jan Trethewey (SEQOL), Mike Relph (AWP), Kevin Connor (AWP) and Jo Osorio (Swindon LINK).

Councillor Bob Wright was also in attendance.

1. Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting.

2. Chair's Introductory Remarks

The Chair welcomed members and health colleagues to this, the first meeting of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the 2012/13 Municipal Year. She congratulated all members on their success in the recent Local Government elections and wished them every success in their term of office, particularly in their support of the Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny function. At the request of the Chair, for the benefit of members, senior colleagues representing the various health partners in attendance were given the opportunity to address the meeting on the role of the particular organisation and to advise on priorities for the coming year. Councillor Keith Williams, the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Strategic Transport, was also invited to address the meeting on the details of his portfolio of responsibilities and his agreed priorities for the year ahead.

3. Public Question Time

No questions were asked under Standing Order 18.

4. Minutes

Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting held on 29th February 2012 be confirmed and signed.

5. Chief Executive's Report - Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

The Committee received a report of the Chief Executive of the GWH NHS Foundation Trust on key issues and developments at the Hospital. The Chief

Executive introduced the report, highlighting matters of particular significance, and responded to members questions and observations on the following issues:

- the success of the Trust in being named as one of the top three performing Acute Trusts in the region
- the current position regarding the resolution of the on-going dispute between the GMB Union and Carillion
- the review of the revised car parking at the hospital, particularly as it relates to staff parking
- measures taken, and proposed to be taken, to eliminate the hospital's reliance on extra bed spaces

Resolved – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the achievement of the Trust in being named as one of the top three performing Acute Trusts in the region be recognised and that the Committee's congratulations on this achievement be passed on to the staff at the hospital.

(3) That it be noted that the outcome of the review of car parking arrangements at the hospital would be presented to a future meeting of the Committee.

6. NHS Swindon Chief Executive's Report

Jill Crook, Director NHS Gloucestershire and Swindon, presented a report of the Chief Executive, NHS Swindon, on current activity within NHS Swindon.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

7. Swindon Local Involvement Network Workplan 2012/13

The Committee received a report of the Board Director, Commissioning, setting out the details of major areas of work to be undertaken by the Local Involvement Network (LINK) support team during the remainder of 2012/13. Mark Feeny, the Council's Contract and Commissioning Officer, introduced the report, highlighting the LINK's priorities and work programme for the period until March 2013. Mr Feeny provided the meeting with some background about the role of the LINK in involving the local community in the planning and operation of health and adult care services and the Council's role in commissioning a HOST organisation to support the LINK. It was noted that the LINK would cease to operate by the end of March 2013, at which time it would be replaced by "Healthwatch Swindon", commissioned by the Council.

Resolved – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That updates be provided over the course of the year advising on the performance of the LINK in relation to its various priority activities, as identified in the report.

8. Work Programme 2012-2013

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Law and Democratic Services on the results of the 2012/13 Overview and Scrutiny work programme consultation exercise and NHS Swindon priorities and inviting the Committee to agree a rolling work programme for the Scrutiny Committee for 2012/13.

Sally Smith, the Council's Scrutiny Officer supporting the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, introduced the report, commenting on the development and content of the draft work programme and explaining that the work programme was necessarily flexible to allow the Committee to respond to issues that might arise

during the course of the year. Members and health colleagues were invited to consider the draft work programme and to suggest health issues that they wished to see added to the programme, taking into consideration:

- the workload of the Committee and of individual members
- the capacity of the Scrutiny Unit and other officers to support a review
- the resource implications of carrying out a review
- the timescales for a review
- the most appropriate method of carrying out a review e.g. Committee meeting, Task Group, Member Champion review

Councillor Bob Wright was in attendance and suggested the following topics for inclusion in the Committee's work programme:

- health and well-being issues in relation to House in Multiple Occupation (HIMOs)
- the health implications of proposed changes to the benefits structure
- poverty and food shortages within the local Somali community in the Central Ward area

Other issues suggested by members for inclusion in the work programme included:

- the health implications of long-term unemployment
- Health and Wellbeing and benchmarking against pilot studies undertaken by other organisations and bodies
- the extent of the monitoring role of the Care Quality Commission in Swindon
- the use of alternative medicines
- dignity in care and standards in local private sector care facilities
- post natal depression and support services
- the impact on health services of drink and drugs related health problems
- "Legal highs" and medical treatment

Resolved – (1) That the results of the 2012/13 Overview and Scrutiny work programme consultation exercise be noted.

(2) That the content of the draft work programme 2012/12, appended to the report, be approved, subject to changes in scheduling identified during the Committee's consideration of the report and the inclusion of the review topics suggested by members.

(3) That Councillors Ray Ballman, Ann Richards, Rochelle Russell and Julie Wright be appointed to serve on the Committee's Dignity in Care/Private Sector Care Homes Task Group, to report back to the Committee in January 2013.

(4) That a Question and Answer session with Councillor Keith Williams, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Strategic Transport, be scheduled as part of the Committee's work programme for 2012/13.