

HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2012

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

Michael Barnes (NHS Swindon), Paul Bearman (NHS Gloucestershire and Swindon), Kevin Connor (AWP), John Gilbert (Swindon Borough Council), Dawn Hales (GWH NHS Foundation Trust), Cherry Jones (NHS Swindon and Swindon Borough Council), Dr Jose Ortega (NHS Swindon and Swindon Borough Council), Jan Trethewey (SEQOL), and Nerissa Vaughan (GWH NHS Foundation Trust).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ray Ballman (Vice-Chair) and Maureen Penny and from Dr Peter Crouch.

33. Declarations of Interest

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

34. Public Question Time

Ms Karyse Day, a resident of Chiseldon, referred to the Committee's intention to consider the issue of complementary and alternative medicine and invited members of the Committee to attend an exploratory meeting with patients and therapists to increase their understanding of the extensive range of complementary therapies and treatments available in Swindon. The Chair thanked Ms Stay for her invitation and asked that she liaise with the Scrutiny Officer to get the details of the meeting and the invitation to each member of the Committee.

Christina Strang, a member of the Health Matters team at a local media outlet, referred to the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines, and asked if the Committee was aware that Swindon residents were not able to receive treatment for lower back pain in accordance with CG88 of those guidelines. The Chair invited the questioner to contact the Scrutiny Officer in order that she might investigate the matter and provide a written response.

Carole Vallyelly of the GMB referred to reports by GMB members working for Carillion at the Great Western Hospital of work practices that contravened infection control best practice and asked what steps this Committee might take to stop work practices in relation to cleaning services at the hospital that might increase the risk of cross-contamination and put patients at risk. The Chair asked the Chief Executive at the Hospital to investigate the claims and to report back to the Committee.

Chris Watts of the GMB referred to disciplinary action taken by Carillion against GMB members working at the hospital, in apparent contravention of the Protected Disclosure Act ("Whistleblowers Act"), and asked what action the Committee might take to ensure that staff are not intimidated into not reporting incidences of malpractice. The Chair asked the Chief Executive at the Hospital to investigate the

claims and to report back to the Committee.

Jackie Habgood, a former state registered nurse and health visitor, referred to the damage that can be caused to patients by the use of drugs prescribed as a result of mis-diagnosis and asked how the NHS could justify treating chronic illnesses with drugs when simple nutritional therapy might be more appropriate and helpful. The Chair thanked Ms Habgood for her question and agreed that a written response be provided.

(In accordance with the National Code of Local Government Conduct, Councillors Ford and Richards made personal non-prejudicial declarations of interest on the grounds that both knew this questioner.)

Mandy Parsons referred to her particular lifestyle and the restrictions on her access to NHS preventative health care services without her being demonstrably ill or having to pay for such services. She asked if the Committee might provide a voice to demand health care for all, not just sickness care for those who are unaware of the negative impact of prescription drugs or are too poor to make any choice beyond no care at all. The Chair thanked Ms Parsons for her question and observations.

35. Minutes

Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2012 be confirmed and signed.

36. 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 Great Western Hospital. The Chief Executive introduced the report, highlighting matters of particular significance and responding to members' questions and observations on the following issues:

- improvements to dementia care services and the pilot scheme to screen all patients aged 75 years and over for signs of memory loss
- arrangements to "protect" meal times at the hospital in order to ensure patients are eating correctly and the feasibility of allowing visitors to remain with patients to assist them with their meals
- recognition of the work of the Prospect Hospice

Resolved – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the Chief Executive's invitation to members of the Committee to attend events to be held throughout December to mark the 10 year anniversary of the opening of the Hospital, be noted and that members be encouraged attend events if at all possible.

37. Managing effective Patient Flow at the Great Western Hospital

The Committee received a report providing an update on the work being undertaken, and progress made, within Great Western Hospital with regard to discharges and effective patient flow.

Dawn Hales, the Acute and Community Pathway Manager at the Hospital, presented the report, advising members of the work undertaken over the past year between the Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and SEQOL Health and Social Care Services in order to improve the patient journey from the community and back home again and to deliver a wide range of benefits to both the patient and the organisation, including improved patient experience, increased efficiency, the freeing up of resources for other patients, and a reduction in the potential for delays in discharging patients.

Following her presentation of the report, Ms Hales responded to members' questions and observations regarding the content of the presentation.

Resolved – (1) That the report, and the level of work undertaken to date with regard to discharges and effective patient flow be noted.

(2) That Ms Hales be thanked for her attendance at the meeting and for her comprehensive and informative presentation of the report.

(3) That, in response to comments at the meeting regarding recent national media reports, the Chief Executive of the Great Western Hospital submit a report to a future meeting on the detail of the "Liverpool Care Pathway".

38. SEQOL Partner Organisation Update Report

Jan Trethewey, Director of Operations for SEQOL, introduced a report providing the Committee with an update on matters relating to SEQOL, including the smooth transition of the One Step Ahead day service users and support team to the Upham Road facility, the success of its supported employment training and work placements and the appointment of SEQOL Mutual Ambassadors as part of the initiative to allow SEQOL to return the support it had received from the Council and others during the period of its establishment. Ms Trethewey also advised that the dementia care teams at Fessey House and Whitebourne House had been shortlisted for a dementia care awards and that SEQOL had also been shortlisted for the Health Service Journal long term conditions award and for the Philip Baxendale award for employee owned organisations

Resolved – That the report be noted and that SEQOL be congratulated on the awards nominations referred to by Ms Trethewey in her presentation of the report.

39. NHS Swindon Chief Executive Report

Paul Bearman, NHS Gloucestershire and Swindon, presented a report of the Chief Executive, NHS Swindon, on current activity within NHS Swindon and updating the meeting on local and national health-related issues.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

40. Avon and Wiltshire NHS Partnership Trust - Update

Kevin Connor, Area Director with the Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust, presented a report on the implementation of the redesign of Community Services, as agreed by NHS Swindon and Swindon Borough Council, and the current position of the implementation of the Adult Acute Community Services. The report reviewed the services' current performance in relation to the service redesign

and set out the Trust's current position to address the findings of the recent NHS South SHA independent Review on governance and management arrangements. It was noted that the recommendations from the independent review formed the basis of the objectives in the Trust's implementation plan, "Fit for the Future".

Resolved – That the report be noted.

41. Respite Care for Children & Young People Update

Further to its previous consideration of the provision of short term residential care breaks for children and young people in the NHS Swindon area, the Committee received a report providing an update on the work carried out to identify alternative ways of providing the service and to improve the provision of respite care services for children and young people in Swindon.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

42. Tobacco Control

Cherry Jones, Deputy Director of Public Health, presented a report providing the Committee with an update on Tobacco Control related issues across the borough and the actions being taken and initiatives being introduced to address these and to successfully deliver the Swindon Tobacco Control Plan 2012.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

43. Work Programme

The Committee received a report of the Director of Law and Democratic Services inviting members to review the Committee's work programme for 2012/13 and the work undertaken by the Committee to date.

Resolved – That the report and the revised and updated Work Programme for 2012/13 be noted.