

## **HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY, 16 JULY 2013**

**PRESENT:-** Councillors Nicky Sewell (Chair), Steve Allsopp, Wayne Crabbe, John Haines, Derique Montaut, Julie Wright, Andrew Bennett, Roderick Bluh, Michael Bray (Vice-Chair) and James Robbins

John Gilbert (Board Director Commissioning, SBC), Heather Mitchell (SEQOL), Dr Peter Crouch (Clinical Commissioning Group), Cherry Jones (SBC), Val Vaughan (Healthwatch), Gill May (Swindon CCG), Jennifer Howells (NHS England), Nerissa Vaughan (GWH), Hilary Walker (GWH) and Oonagh Fitzgerald (GWH).

Councillor Brian Mattock, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, was also in attendance.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rochelle Russell and Paul Bearman (CCG).

### **12. Declarations of Interest**

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

### **13. Public Question Time**

No public questions were asked.

### **14. Minutes**

Resolved – (1) That the minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2013 be confirmed and signed, subject to the amendment of the list of attendees to show Val Vaughan as representing the Equalities Advisory Forum.

(2) That, further to Minute 6(2), it be confirmed that progress reports from the NHS Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group would be made to the Committee on a bi-monthly basis.

### **15. NHS England**

Further to discussion at the last meeting of the Committee, regarding the commissioning activities of NHS England and the effective scrutiny of regional health services, Jennifer Howells (NHS England) was in attendance. Ms Howells made a presentation to the meeting that provided an overview of the aims and ambitions of NHS England and its specific roles, particularly in relation to its allocation of resources to CCGs and its support of the CCGs, through its Area teams, in commissioning services on behalf of their patients. Ms Howell expanded on NHS England's Specialised Commissioning function, its Health and Justice Commissioning and Armed Forces Commissioning responsibilities and provided a summary of population, budget and health service provision for the local area (Bath and North East Somerset, Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire). She concluded her presentation by briefly outlining the structure of the Local Area Team and its

development priorities.

Following her introductory presentation, Ms Howells responded to members questions and observations on the following issues:

- responsibility and accountability for ensuring the delivery of stated objectives and improved outcomes for patients
- health care provision for service veterans and the importance of ensuring that GPs are provided with the individual's service health records
- the total health budget allocation for the region and the reasons for the apparent imbalance in allocation per head of population in Swindon
- the implications for local health funding of the increasing rate of population growth in Swindon
- consultation and accountability in relation to specialised commissioning decisions

The Chair thanked Ms Howells for attending the meeting and for her informative presentation.

#### **16. Joint OSC for South West Ambulance NHS Foundation Trust**

The Committee received a report on the acquisition of the Great Western Ambulance Service by the South West Ambulance NHS Foundation Trust and the implications of that organisational change for the continuing monitoring and scrutiny of the service. It was noted that, at its final meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2013, the former Great Western Ambulance Service Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee had instructed that all the participating local authorities consider whether a joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee should continue to monitor and hold to account the South West Ambulance Trust.

Resolved – (1) That this Committee supports the continuation of the joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the former Great Western Ambulance Service area.

(2) That the Committee recognises that officer support is required to support the continuation of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and also the limitations on the level of support the Council can provide, but confirms that it would wish the function to be continued nonetheless.

(3) That the Committee welcomes the offer received from the South West Ambulance NHS Foundation Trust of additional officer support for the joint OSC function.

#### **17. Report from Chief Nurse - Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**

The Committee received a report on developments in nursing at the Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and addressing some of the issues raised at a previous meeting regarding nurse recruitment.

Hilary Walker, Chief Nurse at Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, introduced the report, placing it in the context of the diverse range of nursing services provided by the Trust across a significant geographical area and in a number of diverse care settings. She commented that, whilst modern nursing continued to share the same important constants that are well known and

recognised by the public, the complex healthcare needs of patients and the advancement of medical technologies had undoubtedly raised expectations of healthcare services and, consequently, nurses with advanced knowledge and skills were essential for the successful delivery of modern healthcare services. The Hospital Trust's Nursing Strategy had been developed against this background, reflecting the new national strategy ("Compassion in Practice") and building on it, through a process of engagement with front line nursing staff, to deliver a document that described the Trust's ambitions across seven broad domains including:

- leading the best patient, relative and carer experience
- strengthening leadership and professional practice
- driving improvements in safety and quality of care
- delivering effective and efficient services
- leading a healthy and happy work life
- measuring impact and improvement
- delivering a workforce fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The Committee noted that the strategy had been ratified by the Trust Board in November 2012 and that, subsequently, a 'Nursing and Midwifery Advisory Committee', chaired by the Chief Nurse, had been established to drive the strategy forward and to monitor its implementation.

Following Ms Walker's introduction of the report and the nursing strategy document, Oonagh Fitzgerald, the Hospital Trust's Director of Human Resources, outlined the Trust's investment in optimising its nursing resources and the specific measures that had been taken to recruit to high calibre people to additional registered nursing posts, including:

- the launch of the "We've got space for you" recruitment campaign
- the development of a centralised recruitment process and the enhancement of that process to promote an explicit and consistent approach to test and develop early work focussing on the candidates' values, attitudes and behaviours
- the development of an International recruitment campaign
- the development of the "Return to Acute care" programme.

After their presentation of the report, Ms Walker and Ms Fitzgerald responded to members' questions and observations on the issues raised, including:

- the "Return to Acute Care Programme" and "fast-track" options for Registered Nurses working in the Independent Care Sector, who have no recent experience of acute care, but who might wish to return to that environment
- career opportunities in health care delivery for individuals who have not obtained the State Enrolled Nurse qualification
- the important support role of nursing assistants and health care assistants
- the optimum ratio of Registered Nurses and Nursing Auxiliaries to support the best patient outcomes and the implications of a recognised reduction in the availability of Registered Nurses

- the proposed level of the Hospital Trust's investment in front line Registered Nurses and whether this can be proven to represent value for money
- the breakdown of nursing staff according to gender and the average retirement age of nursing staff
- the "uniqueness" and "attractiveness" of the Trust's recruitment offer for nursing staff and making Swindon a "destination of choice" for hospital staff
- the selection process and the enhancement of the process to focus on the values, attitudes and behaviours of candidates
- recognition of the need for nurses to develop new skills and acquire new levels of knowledge and understanding and the possibility that relevant training courses will be available through Swindon's new University Technical College
- the availability of staff car parking as an important element of the nursing recruitment offer
- opportunities for the local authority to support the Trust's recruitment drive

Resolved – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That Hilary Walker and Oonagh Fitzgerald be thanked for attending the meeting to present the report and the Strategy document and for their full and open responses to members' questions.

## **18. Chief Executive's Report - Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**

Nerissa Vaughan, the Chief Executive of the Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, presented a report to the Committee on the final report of the Inquiry led by Sir Robert Francis QC into care failings at Mid Staffordshire Hospitals NHS FT. It was noted that the inquiry report detailed 290 recommendations, of which approximately 63 directly related to NHS providers. Ms Vaughan commented on the Department of Health's initial response to the report and outlined the Trust's own specific action plan responding to the report recommendations pertinent to the Hospital, split across the following five themes (identified by Sir Robert Francis QC in his report):

- creating the right culture with values that put patients' first
- getting fundamental standards right
- openness, transparency & candour
- compassionate caring and committed nursing
- accurate, useful and relevant information

Following her presentation of the report, the Chief Executive responded to members questions and observations on a number of issues, including:

- the Trust's whistleblowing policy and measures to protect whistleblowers
- the Hospital Trust's position with regard to the inclusion of confidentiality clauses in employment contracts
- the Hospital Trust's representation on the Liddington Parish liaison group
- the backdrop of media coverage of the failing of hospital services and the positive media management measures that might be taken to reassure residents of Swindon of the high quality of the healthcare services provided by the Great Western Hospital

Resolved – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That a progress report be made to the November meeting of the Committee on the Hospital Trust's and the Clinical Commissioning Group's implementation of the Action Plan, the report to include any initial feedback received from the public in response to the action plan recommendations.

## **19. Health and Wellbeing Draft Strategy**

The Committee received a report regarding progress in the development of the Swindon Health and Wellbeing Strategy and inviting members to consider the priorities identified in the first draft of the Strategy (appended to the report).

Cherry Jones, the Council's Acting Director of Public Health, introduced the report, placing the Draft Strategy in the context of the new vision for the leadership and delivery of public services set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2012, and its support of the principle of local clinical leadership and democratically elected leaders working together to deliver the best health and care services based on the best evidence of local needs. It was noted that the Act placed a duty on the Health and Wellbeing Board to produce a Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

The Acting Director advised that the strategy had been commissioned by the Swindon Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board with the aim of improving the health and wellbeing of children and adults in the borough and reducing health inequalities. It was noted that the strategy document had been developed and informed by the needs of the local population, as outlined in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), and aligned with One Swindon priorities, national and local frameworks and feedback from various stakeholders following a widespread and continuing consultation process.

The Acting Director highlighted the main elements of the draft strategy for the meeting, including

- the overarching framework for health and care commissioning plans across the borough
- the draft strategy vision that everyone in Swindon lives a healthy, safe, fulfilling and independent life and is supported by thriving and connected communities
- the five outcomes identified for the strategy along with a number of related priorities
  - every child and young person in Swindon has a healthy start in life
  - adults and older people in Swindon are living healthier and more independent lives
  - improved health outcomes for disadvantaged communities
  - improved mental health, wellbeing and resilience for all
  - creation of sustainable environments in which communities can flourish.

The Committee noted that consultation on the draft strategy was on-going and that the strategy would be further revised in response to feedback already received before the final consultation round was undertaken. Additional areas to be addressed in the revised strategy would include:

- homelessness
- domestic violence
- end of life care
- the positive contribution of older people within the community

- offender health.

Following her introduction of the report, the Acting Director responded to questions put by members on the following issues:

- the high rate of hospital admissions for alcohol specific conditions for under 18 year olds compared with the national average
  - the situation regarding admissions for alcohol specific conditions for adults
- the identification of young carers and the broader issues around the subject of directed support for young carers
- the inclusion in the strategy of available comparative data in relation to each outcome and the identified local issues
- the timetable for the final iteration of the strategy and the production of an action plan(s) for delivery of outcomes.

Resolved – (1) That the report and progress in relation to the development of the Swindon Health and Wellbeing Strategy be noted.

(2) That the consultation document be revised to address issues raised by members during the course of the Committees debate of the matter, including:

- the stronger emphasis in the strategy of the issue of alcohol related health issues and hospital admissions (adults and under 18 year olds) might be more strongly emphasised in the strategy
- the identification of young carers and the broader issues around the subject of directed support for young carers
- the inclusion of available comparative data in relation to each outcome and the identified local issues

(3) That a further progress report be made to the November meeting of the Committee.

## **20. Dementia Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)**

The Committee received a report advising on the outcome of the Dementia JSNA and seeking members' support for its recommendations and raising awareness of the issues facing people with dementia in Swindon.

After an initial review of the JSNA process as a tool to identify the health care needs of the local population and inform care strategies, Cherry Jones, the Council's Acting Director of Public Health, and Penny Marno, Performance Contracts Manager Adult Social Care, introduced the report, taking members through the findings and recommendations of the Dementia JSNA, as set out in the "Dementia JSNA bulletin" tabled at the meeting.

Following their introduction of the report, the officers responded to members' questions and observations on a number of related issues, including:

- initial contact with GPs and the appropriateness of relatives and/or carers highlighting concerns regarding a patient's memory
- the extent of the waiting list for memory clinic access
- the Alzheimer Society's projection of the number of people with dementia by 2020
- the availability of, and access to, support services for the carers of people with dementia

Resolved – (1) That the recommendations set out in the Dementia JSNA, Bulletin tabled at the meeting, be supported.

(2) That the development of a Dementia Strategy and Action Plan for Swindon be supported.

(3) That the positive role of the Committee in the development of the dementia strategy be acknowledged and that, in order to facilitate its contribution, the Committee be advised of the timetable for development so it can schedule when it might best receive progress reports.

## **21. Clinical Commissioning Group Francis Report Action Plan**

The Committee received a report providing a summary of the main issues and key recommendations raised in the second report from the public inquiry carried out by Robert Francis Q.C. into the events at Mid Staffordshire Hospital. Gill May, Executive Nurse, Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group, introduced the report, taking the Committee through the Commissioning Group's commitments in implementing the key recommendations of the report, significant to the Swindon CCG as a commissioner of health services, and placing these actions in the context of anticipated outcomes.

Resolved – (1) That the key recommendations raised in the second report from the public inquiry carried out by Robert Francis Q.C. into the events at Mid-Staffordshire Hospital be noted.

(2) That the commitments set out by the CCG, to ensure the Inquiry report recommendations are implemented and embedded in practice, be noted..

## **22. Commissioner and Provider updates**

Further to Minute 11, the Committee received update reports from the following Commissioners and Providers:

- Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- SEQOL
- Avon and Wiltshire NHS partnership Trust.

Resolved – That the reports be noted.

## **23. Work Programme 2013/14**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Law and Democratic Services regarding the development of its work programme for 2013/14. In particular, the Committee was invited to consider individual reviews it might wish to conduct through the establishment of Task Groups.

Resolved – (1) That the updated work programme, detailed in the report, be noted.

(2) That a Task Group comprising Councillors Julie Wright, Rod Bluh, Derique Montaut and Nick Sewell be established to conduct a review of the health and health care aspects of the Options Appraisal for the transformation of Leisure and Culture Commissioning.

(3) That a Task Group comprising Councillors Mick Bray, Derique Montaut and Rod Bluh be established to conduct a review of the implications of reduced public transport services on people's access to health services.

